

Computer Magazine of the Year

40 2076 ©

Hobbit competition — p.43

# POPULAR Computing WEEKLY

35p

26 April-2 May 1984 Vol 3 No 17

BRITAIN'S BEST-SELLING MICRO WEEKLY

CLASSIFIEDS  
START  
HERE

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SABOTEUR

ANOTHER HIGH VOLTAGE GAME BY CARLE

AQUARIUS  
SEE PAGE 49

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★ STAR  
Ye Olde Castle  
on BBC B  
See page 10  
GAME ★

## News Desk

### New imprint to foil the pirates

LATEST in the line of software protection devices is Imprint 2 from A & F Software.

Imprint 2 has been developed from a system copyrighted by Jim Lamont in 1978. It was a later anti-piracy device of his that was seized by the MoD earlier this year.

The device is incorporated into the program in two stages; the first during the actual writing and the second at the duplication stage. Anyone who makes a copy of a protected program will find that it crashes while loading.

"We are 99 per cent certain that people won't be able to get round this device," said Mike Fitzgerald of A & F. "A lot of people are going to try very hard to do so, but they'll find it extremely difficult."

Jim Lamont has successfully applied for a patent for Imprint 2.

A & F is not the only company to be developing his idea, but it is the first to produce a completed version.

"A number of software houses are interested in our version," Mike Fitzgerald con-

continued on page 5 ▶

### Relative details from Einstein

TATUNG has now announced full details of its new micro — the Einstein — planned to be available in July.

Aimed at both the home and small business markets, the Einstein is priced at £499. The machine is Z80A-based, has 64K Ram plus 16K video Ram and an 8K Rom (expandable up to 32K). This is broadly the MSX hardware standard.

The Einstein also includes a single built-in 3 inch Teac disc drive. The unit has a formatted capacity of 400K (200K per side). Just over 43K is available from Basic after it has been loaded from disc.

It has a professional keyboard. Display is either 40 or 32 by 24 columns in text mode and 256 x 192 pixels in graphics mode. The machine has 16 colours with a colour resolution of any two colours per 8-pixel row. Up to 32 sprites can be displayed. A three channel sound chip is included.

The machine has a Centronics port, an RS232, twin analogue ports, an 8-bit user port and YUV and UHF tv connections.

Up to three additional disc units can be connected (the

continued on page 5 ▶



## ○○○○○○○○○○ This Week ○○○○○○○○○○

● **Street Life** Graham Taylor meets Francis Baron from W H Smith's Cable Services division on page 13.

● **Reviews** Barbara Conway shoots her way through a series of games for the BBC on page 16. ● **Spectrum**

Mark Lawrence presents a full character width word processor. See page 26. ● **BBC & Electron** A chemistry equations program from Robert Crook on page 34. ● **New Releases** Spellbound from Beyond Software and Air

Traffic Control from Hama Systems are among the games evaluated on page 32.



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*Popular Computing Weekly*,  
 12-13 Little Newport Street,  
 London WC2R 3LD  
 Telephone: 01-437 4343  
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Published by Sunshine Publications Ltd.

**ABC**

MEMBER OF THE ADVERTISING  
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ISSN 0265-0509

Typeset by The Artwork Group,  
 55-63 Goswell Road, London EC1,  
 in association with Ink on Paper Ltd.  
 Printed by East Midland Litho Printers  
 Ltd, Oundle Road, Woodston,  
 Peterborough PE2 9QR.

Distributed by S M Distribution  
 London SW9. 01-274 8611. Telex: 261643  
 © Sunshine Publications Ltd 1984

### How to submit articles

Articles which are submitted for publication  
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 articles, and any accompanying programs,  
 should be original. It is breaking the law of  
 copyright to copy programs out of other mag-  
 azines and submit them here — so please do not  
 be tempted.

### Accuracy

*Popular Computing Weekly* cannot accept any  
 responsibility for any errors in programs we  
 publish, although we will always try our best to  
 make sure programs work.

## This Week

<b>News</b>	5
Tatung	
<b>Letters</b>	7
TV licence	
<b>Star Game</b>	10
Ye Olde Castle on BBC B by Simon Pithers	
<b>Street Life</b>	13
Graham Taylor talks to Francis Baron of WH Smith's Cable Services Division	
<b>Reviews</b>	16
BBC games by Barbara Conway	
<b>Programming</b>	20
M/C screen dump by Alan Turnbull	
<b>Dragon</b>	23
Assembly Language programming	
<b>Spectrum</b>	26
Word processor by Mark Lawrence	
<b>Commodore 64</b>	31
The Vortex by Mark Gomall	
<b>BBC &amp; Electron</b>	34
Chemistry equations balancer	
<b>Open Forum</b>	37
Four pages of your programs	
<b>Microradio</b>	41
Ray Berry's column	
<b>Adventure</b>	43
Tony Bridge's corner	
<b>Peek and Poke</b>	45
Your questions answered	
<b>New releases</b>	52
Latest software programs	
<b>This week</b>	54
Top 10 plus all this week's software	
<b>Competitions</b>	55
Ziggurat, Puzzle, Hackers	

## Editorial

*The Hobbit* is undoubtedly a classic  
 micro adventure game. Indeed, there  
 is almost a danger that so many people  
 have sung its praises that users are  
 starting to become slightly bored with  
 it.

However, *The Hobbit* still remains a  
 landmark in computer history for the  
 way in which it brought together ele-  
 ments of artificial intelligence, graphics  
 and interaction to produce an adventure  
 which captured a good deal of the  
 flavour and imagery of the original  
 book on which it was based. The game  
 may look a bit dated now, compared to  
 some of the adventures which are  
 coming on to the market, but at the time  
 it was released it was a long way ahead  
 of anything else.

A lot of the praise for this program is  
 due to Fred Milgrom and his team of  
 Melbourne House programmers. But,  
 praise is also due to Tolkien, for without  
 his book there would be no program.

The explosion in home micros, and  
 the accompanying software expertise  
 that has grown up around it, has made  
 it possible for all manner of worlds to be  
 brought alive in your own living room.  
 But, the nature of those worlds still  
 depends on those with the imagination  
 and skill to conceive them.

With programs such as *The Quill* and  
*Games Designer* starting to emerge,  
 the importance of original thinkers is  
 likely to grow.

## Next Thursday

**Play Solitaire** — next week's star game  
 for **Dragon 32** by J Bateman — the game  
 that is usually played with pegs or  
 marbles.

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## Magic Castle

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**GOLD COLLECTION ■ GOLD COLLECTION ■ GOLD COLLECTION ■ GOLD COLLECTION ■**



## QL non-appearance explained

THE reason for the spectacular non-appearance of the Sinclair QL has now been made clear.

Soon after its January launch it became obvious to Sinclair's design team that the on-board operating system, SuperBasic and QDOS disc operating system software was not going to fit into the 32K Rom allocated

for it in the hardware design.

In addition, Sinclair decided to further extend the software to include extra facilities such as turtle graphics.

With too much machine-code to squeeze into the Rom, Sinclair has decided to put a portion of it on to a separate chip.

First machines — which Sinclair has now promised will be in the hands of customers by the end of this month — will go out with the 'overflow' software provided as a separate Eprom board which will have to be plugged into the Rom cartridge port at the rear of the machine.



Later versions of the machine will have the software built into the main Rom, incorporated inside the computer, freeing the Rom cartridge port for the purpose for which it was intended.

People who receive the plug-in Eprom version of the QL will be offered a hardware up-grade later — well before Rom cartridge software appears for the machine.

Because the QL design has a fixed 64K Rom address space,

the larger-than-32K internal Rom will mean that the maximum size of cartridge software will be only 16K.



Explaining the decision to deliver first machines with a sideways Eprom board, Sinclair's spokesman said: "As far as customers are concerned, they want the machine they thought they were buying as soon as possible — and this is a way of doing that."

Sinclair now has over 13,000 waiting customers — four thousand more than at the end of February.

The form of compensation to be offered to waiting customers has also been sorted out. Each waiting QL customer — regardless of whether they have ordered by cheque or credit card — will receive an RS232 printer lead which retails at £14.95. Those who originally ordered a printer lead will get a refund.

● **PCW's QL order:** Week 14. Delivery is now scheduled for the end of April.

## Advanced filing

MELBOURNE House has announced *Acas+*, an advanced cassette filing system for the Commodore 64.

It sets up an on-screen directory at the start of any cassette showing on screen the programs on the tape.

Using the system the name of any program Saved to tape is automatically recorded in the directory at the start of the cassette.

The list of programs on the tape can then be viewed when the cassette is loaded and a

## One missing satellite

UOSAT-2, the satellite built and launched by engineers at Surrey University, appears to have gone missing.

The satellite went into space on March 1, made three orbits and then stopped transmitting.

The Surrey University group do not know what has happened to the satellite, but believe it is still orbiting the earth at the correct altitude.

They have asked technicians at Stanford University, California, to blast high-power radio waves at the satellite in an effort to galvanise possible electrical faults. Stanford's transmitter is 1,000 times more powerful than Surrey's own.

## Einstein

4 continued from page 1

first costs £190) and an optional colour display will be priced around £240.

No details are available so far of which chains will stock the machine.

Although the micro's Tatung/Xtal disc operating system is claimed to be CP/M compatible, being a 40-column only machine the Einstein will only work with software written for a 40-column display. A+F, Crystal and UK are writing a limited amount of games software for the machine but it will not be cheap, necessarily including the cost of a disc.

The Einstein has been designed entirely by Tatung in the UK and will be manufactured at the company's Bridgenorth plant. Tatung is Taiwan's largest company with a turnover last year of over £500m.

## New imprint

4 continued from page 1

tinued. "As yet, we have not decided whether to supply houses with the complete system, or whether to manufacture a 'master' package which they can use to package which they can use to protect programs, without actually discovering the method.

"There are only four people — the developers themselves — who do know how it works."

A & F's first program with the incorporated imprint will be *Haunted Abbey* for the BBC, available in two to three weeks time. It will cost £6.90, as opposed to A & F's usual price of £7.90, in anticipation of increased sales. Chuckie Egg for the Commodore 64 should follow shortly afterwards, and all A & F's future programs will contain Imprint 2.

## Low-cost modem from Protek

PROTEK has announced a new low-cost modem for home computers.

The device — an acoustic modem — connects to any machine with an RS232 interface and transmits information at a choice of speeds — 1200/1200 or 1200/75 baud.

The unit is battery powered and will operate for a 40-hour period on one set of four 1.5 volt batteries.

The modem should be available some time in June, priced at £59.55.

Details from Protek, 1A Young Square, Brucefield Industrial Park, Livingston, West Lothian.

## Prize money up for grabs

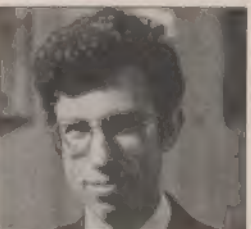
A \$5000 prize is still up for grabs following international chess master David Levy's latest win.

In 1968, David Levy made a bet that no computer would be able to beat him at chess within 10 years. In 1978, he extended the time limit, having successfully fought off all challenges and his \$5000 still intact.

Last week, he played against the Cray MSC computer, reckoned to be one of the most powerful in the world.

After a two day match over four games, he won by four games to nil. The match, held at Brunel University, was sponsored by GEC/Dragon, along with a two day seminar on Artificial Intelligence organised by Queen Mary College.

David's company, Intelli-



gent Software, designed the forthcoming *Enterprise* (née *Fian*, *Elan*, etc), computers.

## 11th microfair at Ally Pally

THE 11th ZX Microfair takes place at Alexandra Palace on Saturday, April 28th.

The Alexandra Pavilion will be open for the show from 10am to 6pm and entry will cost £1 and 50p.



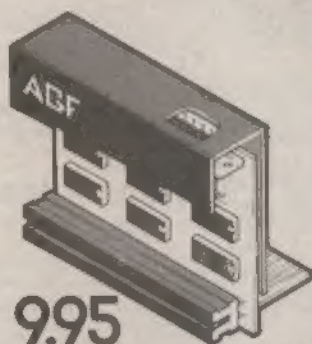
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Cord length and termination is as the standard QuickShot controller.

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QuickShot

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ZX81 <input type="checkbox"/> ZX SPECTRUM <input type="checkbox"/>		Final tot	FINAL TOTAL

# Letters

## No licence required

**R**e Popular Computing Weekly 12-18 April, 1984, News Desk. I was most interested to read the snippet on 'tv licence case dismissed'.

I purchased a Commodore 64 in mid October, 1983. My tv is black and white and I hold a monochrome licence. However, I needed a dedicated colour tv for the computer, so I purchased a 14" colour tv at the same time. As expected, the shop notified the tv licence Records Office of the purchase and I received a month later a notice requiring me to obtain a colour licence.

I wrote to the Records Office emphasising my job in a legal department and explaining the purpose of the colour tv. I went to great lengths to set out the relevant provisions of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 ss 1(1) and 19(1), and stating my opinion that, providing the tv was not used to receive broadcasts, a licence was not required.

On 28 November, 1983, I received a reply from the Records Office stating:

'In view of the circumstances you describe, it will not be necessary for you to obtain a television licence. I have amended our records accordingly.'

The report of Peter Battle's case is undated, but I wonder if my correspondence with the Record Office preceded it? If so, why did the Records Office prosecute Peter Battle at all?

JE Lawrence  
Manchester

## Cracked Hobbit

**H**ooray, hooray, I've done it. What a relief. I actually cracked *The Hobbit*. After two months toil I obtained 77.5%. I couldn't have done it without the fantastic help I received from Melbourne House. I can't praise them enough.

All I can say to them is thanks a lot and if anyone is as slow as I am, then they should get Melbourne House's new book *A Guide to Playing The Hobbit*. At £3.95 it's well worth it. Even for those who have cracked it, it's worth getting. It

just shows what a challenge *The Hobbit* can be.

Well done Melbourne House. Roll on your next two adventures.

John Westmacott  
18 Wakefield Close  
Ronswood  
Worcester WR5 1QR

For those of you interested in solving *The Hobbit* we have a competition on page 43.



## More Vic 20 please

**I**s it possible for you to publish a series of utility programs for the 16K Vic 20 (or unexpanded)? There are many utilities that the machine could do with—for example, renumber, a machine-code monitor, and assembler disassembler, trace etc. I am sure a great many Vic 20 owners would be very grateful if such a series was organised.

After all, we don't all want to spend our time shooting down aliens, do we?

Stuart Lowbridge  
84 Hall Lane  
Walsall Wood  
Walsall

## Writers write

**M**ay I ask you if you would draw the attention of your readers to the meeting to be held at 1 o'clock in the afternoon on Saturday, May 5, at the Kenneth Moore Theatre, Oakfield Road, Ilford to discuss the formation of

proposed Society of Software Authors.

The idea of this Society was put forward by the Computer Trades Association in their Annual General Meeting last year, when it was agreed that there was a need for a body to represent the interests of Software Authors. Although it is hoped that the new Society will affiliate to the Computer Trades Association, it is intended that it will be an independent Society.

Anybody who is interested in the writing of software for publication would be well advised to attend the meeting on May 5. If they wish to vote at the meeting they will have to pay an initial subscription of £10 to cover the costs of setting things up, but if they just wish to attend they are quite welcome to do so.

Should you require further information please contact the Acting Treasurer, Miss Dorene Cox, 7 Meadow Court, Whalebone Lane South, Dagenham, Essex. (tel: 01-593 8976) or myself (0530 812320).

Nigel Backhurst  
General Secretary  
Computer Trades Association

## Where will it end?

**I** am writing to you in an attempt to persuade the huge number of computer users in Britain to raise their voices in protest at the proposed censorship of computer games. Although I would be the first to complain about the perversity in Artie's *Ship of Doom*, once the Mary Whitehouses of this world start censoring computer games, where will it end?

Will *The Hobbit* be banned because its graphic description of the fight scenes? Will the RSPCA ban *Pssst* for its cruelty to insects? And what of the wanton destruction of alien life forms—surely this must be banned along with all 'shoot 'em up' games?

I strongly urge that the computerising public of this nation should stand up and tell the government where it can stick its censorship.

James Hickman (15)  
27 Fallow Walk  
Spring Park  
Northampton

## An international flavour

**O**ur school computer club is interested in getting contacts in England, but of course, we couldn't afford to pay for a real advert, as we do not sell anything.

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## COMPUTE-A-FROG

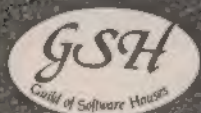
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# The games baron

Graham Taylor talks to Francis Baron, managing director of W H Smith's cable services division

W H Smiths has its way in the next few years, the idea of renting a computer will be no more unusual than that of renting a television. Not only that, but you won't buy games any more — you'll simply download them, choosing your favourite from a menu.

The modus operandi for these changes is the introduction of a cable network specifically for games. Initially, they will be available through most of the 11 new cable franchises due to begin operations in early 1985 (See *Popular Computing Weekly* 12-18 April for the full list).

The man behind the operation is Francis Baron who stresses that the possibilities of the system do not end with *Space Invaders*. "We're looking at something for the whole family, although obviously the initial demand is likely to come from games players. In fact, people will be able to word process, do accounts, do their shopping and eventually interact with other players on other machines to play complex games."

"The computing technology for the system has been available for a while, but the existing cable networks proved unsuitable. Licences on the old systems only last two years. Any cable operator who takes our system will be supplied with some expensive hardware — obviously we're looking for more than two years of commitment."



The other problems with the old systems are technical. "Most of the existing systems use the HF standard, but for the kind of things we have in mind we use a VHS/VHF delivery system. In addition,

most of the old systems only have four channel capacity — obviously they're all going to be used up."

The hardware the subscriber receives is an impressive looking computer called The Window. At its heart is a 6502 with sophisticated sound and graphic chips. First reports suggested maximum K would be 64, but Francis felt this situation might change. "I think we're looking at a choice of two models, 64K or 128K, the latter being, obviously, slightly more expensive to hire."

I suggested that the technical comparison might be with a Commodore 64. "Well, I think it's a little more than that. If it has to be compared with an existing machine, I'd opt for an Apple IIa."

In any event, comparisons are going to be misleading because of the speed with which the system can be loaded. "64K is only going to take a couple of seconds. It'll be better than almost any disc drive. This means that extremely elaborate games can be devised with terrific graphics — adventures, for example, where the next section is loaded once you've reached a certain point."

Superficially, one problem with renting the computer would seem to be the incredible rate of technical obsolescence in the computer industry — how impressive will The Window's specifications look in two or more years time?

"There are basically two answers to that. Firstly, we already have in mind various enhancements that we could make to the existing machines. Secondly, if The Window starts to get too far behind, we could consider replacing it."

The name of the game though, is software. "Really, software is the be all and end all of our service — it's being proved more and more that it's the quality of the software that really matters."

Smith's, in conjunction with associates in America and Canada, have licensing arrangements with most of the major software houses in America. They have even been to Europe. "There will be some very unusual education programs from France for example."

As yet, no British software houses have been signed. "We haven't got around to Britain yet, but obviously there are a number of companies we have in mind — it might prove to be a good way for software houses in this country to test out the market for their games worldwide."

Initially, Francis sees the market for the network being people who are wary of risking much money on buying something



they may not need. "In particular, I see us selling the system to people who think they might be interested in the market but aren't sure — we can give them the chance to experiment without risking too much money."

Francis sees it as important that the network has a wide range. "We're after the whole family. Subscribers will be receiving a monthly magazine letting them know what's going to become available with tips on the games and other features."

In fact, the title The Games Network may prove to be somewhat misleading. Games currently account for only a quarter of the scheduled line.

"We envisage a large number of both educational and tutorial programs being available, not just for children at school but to learn a foreign language, craft or skill."

The big unanswered question is, of course, how much the system is going to cost. Previous reports had suggested a figure of about £10 per month, including the machine and unlimited downloading of software. "I think pricing is still a little uncertain. In some ways it's fairest from every point of view to simply get people to pay for whatever they download, with some programs being more expensive than others. The big problem with that is the extra cost of accounting for it all."

Whatever is finally decided, it looks like the system will be relatively cheap and for games addicts it will solve one massive problem — most games have a life of not more than two months; as the game is mastered, so enthusiasm wanes and the program is not loaded any more.

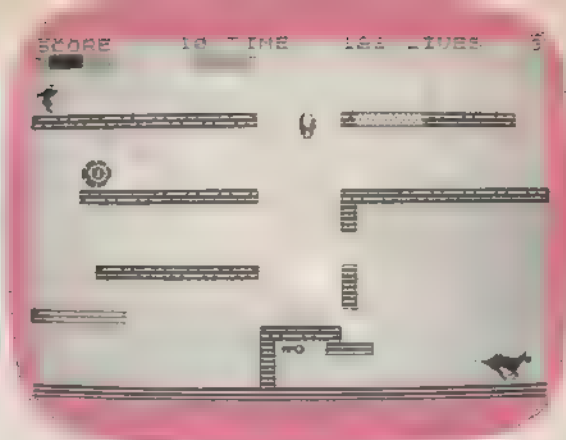
The analogy, if you like, is with renting videos of films — many people hire videos of films they would not otherwise see, because they are cheap and available.

If the faith evidenced by the amount of money W H Smith is putting into the operation is justified, the repercussions on the industry could be enormous. To what extent will people still want to actually buy games?

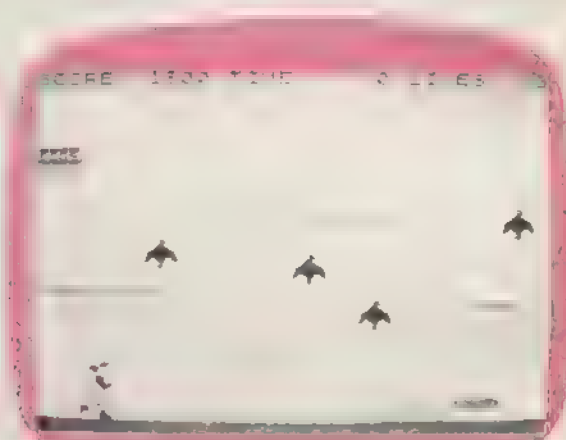
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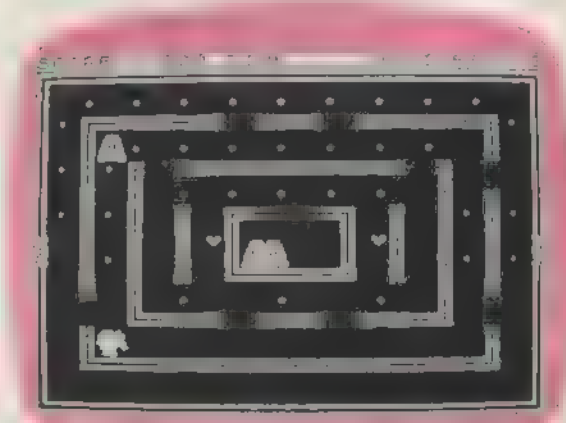
All games above were  
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# Problems from space

Barbara Conway risks life and limb in a selection of BBC games

There comes a time in all our lives when we have to face up to the truth, however harsh it may appear. For me that moment came only a few weeks ago, and it was a bitter pill to swallow. After all, when you're 350 or so miles up in space at the controls of one of the most awesome technological advances yet, it's pretty tough to come to terms with the fact that, as a space pilot, you are a one-woman demolition squad. Honestly, if they had the likes of me up there on the space shuttle they'd probably end up having to cope with some really daft disasters. Like losing two multi-million pound satellites, for example.

It isn't for want of trying, either. Of the group of games I was trying out this time for the BBC, three of them were pointing out towards space and two involved the flight skills I yearned to acquire. Thus, after being accustomed to read reviews of such software by the usual venturers who are both competent and happy to boldly go into the vastness above, you now have the opportunity of learning from the experiences of a klutz with two left hands and a trail of mega-expensive wreckage in her wake.

To start, however, on a note rather less damaging to my ego, I was able to put up a considerably better showing with the latest offering in the adventure game line by the fiends at Level 9 Computing who have specialised in sagas designed to overheat the brain such as *Snowball* (PCW 15 Feb). The new adventure is *Lords of Time* and it

does nothing to detract from Level 9's reputation as a provider of weeks of brainwork per game. Games from this source rarely cheat, so you can be sure that, if you can figure it out, there is a way out of every situation.

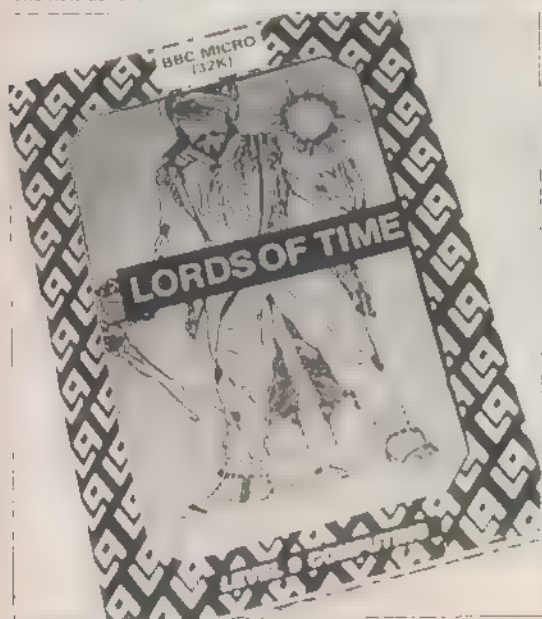
Nobody could accuse Sue Gazzard, who designed this saga (a sequel to which is already well advanced) of making life easy for the adventurer. From a sitting start, reasonably enough at your own micro, the story takes the adventurer through nine increasingly bizarre worlds, in most of which even the wary and experienced traveller will probably get killed at least once. The journey quickly becomes an obsession, even when you are in the "real world". It was when poring through a grimly serious financial report in my office, for example, that the solution to the sabre-toothed tiger problem suddenly struck me (making a pleasant change since the tiger itself had struck me, with fatal effect, several times during the previous evening's adventuring).

The zones must be taken in the proper order since that is the only way to collect the wherewithal to solve

with paradise. Treasures should be deposited in the clock (if you can't work out how to get into and out of the clock, you won't survive long anyway) and the sands of time are running out.

At the time of writing I still haven't finished my quest, although I have worked my way through most of the zones and sampled the others. The variety of problems, including several monsters, is extraordinary and requires the adventurer to draw on skills ranging from that of the agent provocateur (if faced with two menaces see if you can get them to fight each other) through animal dentistry, electronic expertise and some good old-fashioned magic. "Lords" also encourages some of the finer feelings. Generosity, such as helping to clothe the needy, can bring its own reward.

This adventure is full of surprises, including meeting one adversary more familiar to *Dr Who* addicts, which seems only fair since you are dealing with timelords. Make sure that you remember the key poem given in the documentation, don't let the



the problems, and the accompanying booklet provides some useful, if well-wrapped up, clues. Don't be fooled by the fact that the first zone seems extremely tame, this is the lull before eight storms. Animals tend to behave a little unusually. I still can't believe the way I got the fur coat in the Ice Age) but at least the various species have conventional tastes. There is an optimum 1,000 points to be gained in the quest to collect nine treasures and defeat the evil timelords, with progress marked in 25-point steps. Scenarios range from a Viking longship to the Milky Way, ending up

timelords see you and resist impulses to be gratuitously nasty (if you throw that rotten apple you'll regret it) and this should keep any adventure addict satisfied.

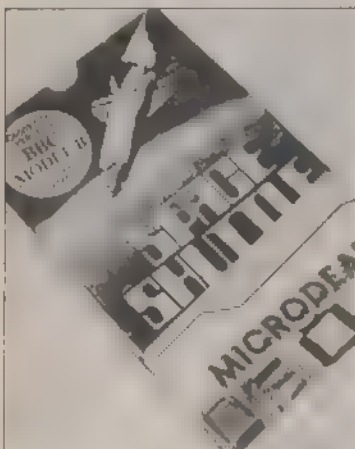
On to the rather more familiar world of Mr Micro's *Humphrey*, a close relation of sundry small beings on various micros who have to negotiate piles of cubes without falling foul of deadly obstacles, this case bombs. *Humphrey* can be guided by either joystick or keyboard through different screens each with increasing danger factors, and you can select the start screen. There are nine different arenas for *Humphrey* to bounce around on, changing the colour of each block as he lands on it, ranging from a straightforward pyramid at the start to more convoluted arrangements. At first the bombs just thud downwards haphazardly, but as you progress they get sneakier, bouncing up on *Humphrey* when you are not looking. Each screen is completed when *Humphrey* has visited each block.

The program has clear arcade-style colour graphics and plenty of ear-splitting sound effects. *Humphrey* has three lives per game and getting him round the



cubes becomes an increasingly frantic operation. Not exactly a sparkling new idea, but more absorbing than many others.

*Missile Control*, from Gemini, is even harder on the eardrums and gives a dazzling screen display as you attempt to clear the skies of enemy bombs with your own three missile bases. The instructions



are contained in the first part of the program and, even after reading them carefully, the first try the real thing left me with a score of exactly nil. I think it was at this stage of the review procedure that I started to realise that maybe dealing with problems from space was not my forte.

Pulling myself together, however, I improved my total to nearly 5,000 as jets and more obscure enemy craft whined overhead and the screen filled with the wake of thwarted bombs. After each wave the screen works out a bonus for you (it becomes increasingly hard to get) and from the sixth wave the bombs start to think for themselves. I wasn't much good in this game, but I enjoyed trying and the graphics are rewarding even when, once again, this incompetent missile controller had lost all her bases and left earth to the mercy of the alien (I think they were alien) nasties.

It was with mixed feelings that, after failing to distinguish myself with the Gemini package, that I loaded Compusoft's *Space Mission Simulator* into my machine. My misgivings were justified, but this is in no way a reflection on a program which, for one of the cheapest prices going, gives an enjoyable three-part game.

All instructions are on screen, with virtually no packaging given in the cassette itself. Task one is to get to your spacecraft and this proved to be so simple that even I managed it. This space mission is carried out by keyboard, with no joystick option and the pilot zips across the screen simply by alternate pressing of the "N" and "M" keys.

Stage two gives a screen representation of the spacecraft dashboard. You have, in

appropriate sequence, to arm the lasers, refuel, switch on the engines, disengage the brakes etc, all via the appropriate keys so it helps if you have noted them on the crib sheet. When all is successfully accomplished, you have lift-off.

The scene now changes to a "penetrator"-type scenario where you see the ship in what seems to me, as an admitted non-expert in space warfare, a launching route which guarantees that fighters scrambling to get into space and engage invaders will suffer maximum time-consuming difficulty. I crashed my ship several times negotiating the launch tunnel before managing to emerge into open space and I haven't managed to nobble the invading craft yet.

At the end of each session you are given a score out of 500, together with a comment on your performance. The top score I received was 166 and the usual comment was "Disgraceful". But, even through my chagrin, I have to admit that for the money this offers better-than-average value.

Under the circumstances, I think it was very brave of me to attempt Microdeal's *Space Shuttle*, a program which has already received plaudits for its original implementation on the Dragon. "So you think you can control the most complex piece of flying machinery?" asks the blurb on the program package. Well I didn't, so the outcome is not really that much of a disappointment to me. On the other hand, the program itself is no kind of disappointment at all, quite the contrary.

While waiting for the program to load I read the daunting but invaluable 14-page documentation accompanying it. Like *Space Mission Simulator* this is a multi-part affair, but there any similarity stops dead. Every stage of *Space Shuttle* is a major challenge and if it turns out that real prospective shuttle pilots are given this as an aptitude test I wouldn't be at all surprised.

As the program starts you are obviously at the control panel of the shuttle with a distinctly mountainous view through the window above the panel. This is launch stage and, while even the likes of me should be able to achieve lift-off, there are some crucial manoeuvres which must be achieved (via joystick or keyboard control) to get the shuttle into the proper orbit. As you lift off the mountain view descends and you must keep a keen eye on the control-board gauges and the "plotboard" which shows your course. The shuttle's boosters are pre-set to shut off at orbit velocity and by that time you should be in the box shown on the board.

That is the way you are supposed to reach the "park" stage. If you foul up the launch navigation then you get to guessing position by default. You are free to guess how I got there. Parking is a very intricate affair requiring a mixture of keyboard and joystick input and fast reactions. The view from the window is of the satellite and you have to get it virtually into the centre of the window to complete the manoeuvre. After that comes the "arm" stage which, unlike most games, does not imply that you are about to zap the satellite. In fact, you are here to secure it and bring it back for repairs so you must use a robot arm to lock into the satellite and bring it into your shuttle bay. You can see the movement of the arm and the opening and closing of the bay doors as (maybe) you bring the satellite within the 100-second time limit.

Then comes re-entry into Earth's atmosphere, no engines this time, you're gliding, followed by the landing stage. This is a lot richer than launch and the odds on splattering your craft across the desert are pretty good. *Space Shuttle* has clear black and white graphics, realistic accompanying sound and a dangerously addictive quality overall. This is a real test of skill and at the end points are awarded out of a total 600. If you think I'm telling how much I got, think again. Damm! I have my pride.

Supplier	Program	Cost
Level 9 Computing 229 Hughenden Road High Wycombe Bucks HP13 5PG	<i>Lords of Time</i>	£9.90
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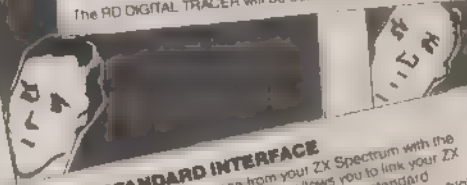
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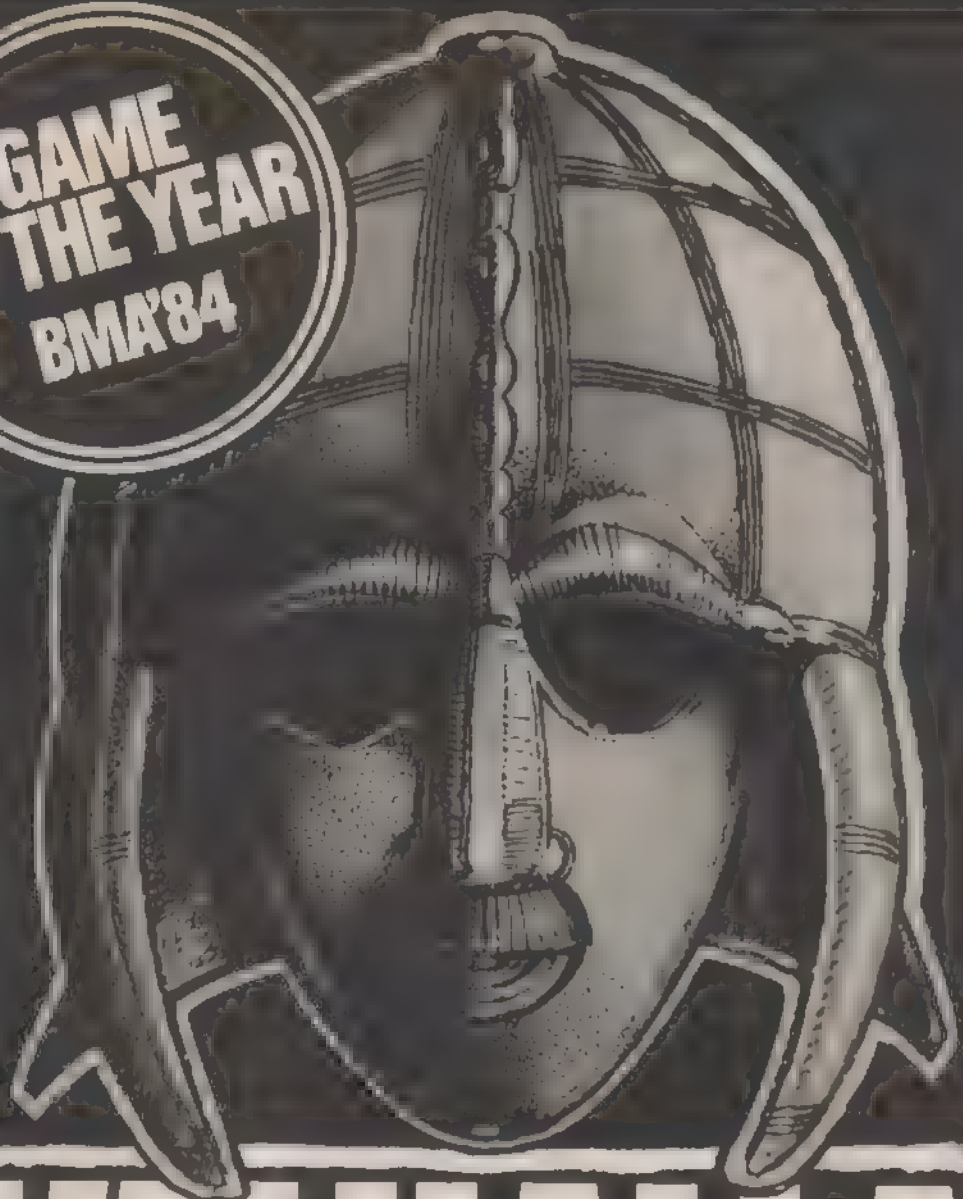
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# VALHALLA

SOON FOR COMMODORE 64

## Dumping ground

Alan Turnbull demonstrates how to get a machine code screen dump on the Seikosha GP-250X printer

This article introduces a machine code routine to be used on the Sinclair ZX Spectrum with ZX Interface 1, RS 232 lead and Seikosha GP-250X Programmable Graphic Printer attached. This will produce a hard copy of the high-resolution screen.

Figure 1 shows a simple Basic program which will do the job, but this is horrendously slow. The equivalent routine translated into Z80 machine code is a big improvement and is shown in Figure 2.

The machine code routine uses the hook codes available in the ZX Interface 1 system to send bytes of data directly across the RS 232 link. The instructions

send the byte held in the accumulator to the RS 232 device and so to use the routine, only the following Basic commands are necessary:

```
FORMAT "b": 2400
RANDOMIZE "B" 23296
```

Several 16K ROM calls are made and they are as follows:

Line 380: CALL #22CE evaluates the POINT function with the x co-ordinate in the C register and the y co-ordinate in the B register and places the result on the calculator stack.

Line 400: CALL #2D28 places the contents of the accumulator on the calculator stack.

Line 410: RST 40 invokes the floating point calculator.

Line 420: DEFB 4 causes the top two items on the calculator stack to be multiplied together.

Line 430: DEFB 56 causes the floating point calculator to stop operating.

Line 440: CALL #2DD5 gets the last value on the calculator stack and compresses it into the accumulator.

The routine was assembled on the excellent and professional Z80 GENSYM Assembler by Hisoft and may be relocated anywhere in Ram as long as one remembers to alter the variable pointer in line 40.

Figure 3 shows an example output generated by the routine which takes only a few minutes to produce unlike its Basic equivalent.

I hope readers will find the routine useful and perhaps adapt it for other models of printers.

RST #  
DEFB #1E

Figure 1

```
5 FORMAT "b":2400
10 OPEN #3;"b"
20 LPRINT CHR$ 27;"L",CHR$ 2,CHR$ 10,
30 FOR y=175 TO 7 STEP -8
40 FOR x=0 TO 255
50 LPRINT CHR$ 27;"G",CHR$ 0,CHR$ 1,
60 LET p=1: LET b=0: LET l=0
70 LET b=b+p*POINT(x,y-1)
80 LET p=p*2 LET l=l+1
90 IF p<=128 THEN GO TO 70
100 LPRINT CHR$ 6,
110 NEXT x
120 LPRINT CHR$ 10
130 NEXT y
140 LPRINT CHR$ 27;"L",CHR$ 3;
150 CLOSE #3
```

Figure 2 Pass 1 errors: 00

```
10 * Seikosha GP-250X Hi-res screen copy for ZX Spectrum
20 * (c) Copyright 1984 Alan Turnbull
30 ORG 23296 ; in printer buffer
40 LD IX,VARS ; point to variables
50 LD A,27 ;
60 RST 0 ;
70 DEFB #1E ;
80 LD A,"L" ;
90 RST 0 ;
100 DEFB #1E ; set up line feed
110 LD A,2 ;
120 RST 0 ;
130 DEFB #1E ;
140 LD A,10 ;
150 RST 0 ;
160 DEFB #1E ;
170 LD (IX+1),175 ; y:=175
180 NEXT Y LD (IX+0),0 ; x:=0
190 NEXT X LD (IX+2),1 ; p = 1
200 LD (IX+3),0 ; b = 0
210 LD (IX+4),0 ; l = 0
220 LD A,27 ;
230 RST 0 ;
240 DEFB #1E ;
250 LD A,"G" ;
260 RST 0 ;
270 DEFB #1E ;
280 LD A,0 ;
290 RST 0 ; set up graphic mode
300 CF
```



```

5B33 1E      300      DEFB #1E
5B34 3E01    310      LD  A,1
5B36 CF      320      RST 8
5B37 1E      330      DEFB #1E
5B38 DD7E01  340 L70  LD  A,(IX+1)
5B38 DD9604  350      SUB (IX+4)
5B3E 47      360      LD  B,A
5B3F DD4E80  370      LD  C,(IX+0)
5B42 CDCE22  380      CALL #22CE
5B45 DD7E02  390      LD  A,(IX+2)
5B48 CD282D  400      CALL #2D28
5B48 EF      410      RST 40
5B4C 04      420      DEFB 4
5B4D 30      430      DEFB 56
5B4E CDD52D  440      CALL #2DD5
5B51 D08603  450      ADD  A,(IX+3)
5B54 DD7703  460      LD  (IX+3),A
5B57 DDC30226 470      SLA (IX+2)
5B58 DD3404  480      INC (IX+4)
5B5E DD7E02  490      LD  A,(IX+2)
5B61 FE00    500      CP  0
5B63 20D3    510      JR  NZ,L70
5B65 DD7E03  520      LD  A,(IX+3)
5B68 CF      530      RST 8
5B69 1E      540      DEFB #1E
5B6A DD3400  550      INC (IX+0)
5B6D 20AD    560      JR  NZ,NEXTX
5B6F 3EBA    570      LD  A,10
5B71 CF      580      RST 8
5B72 1E      590      DEFB #1E
5B73 3E0D    600      LD  A,13
5B75 CF      610      RST 8
5B76 1E      620      DEFB #1E
5B77 DD7E01  630      LD  A,(IX+1)
5B7A D608    640      SUB #
5B7C DD7701  650      LD  (IX+1),A
5B7F FEFF    660      CP  255
5B81 2095    670      JR  NZ,NEXTY
5B83 3E1B    680      LD  A,27
5B85 CF      690      RST 8
5B86 1E      700      DEFB #1E
5B87 3E4C    710      LD  A,"L"
5B89 CF      720      RST #
5B8A 1E      730      DEFB #1E
5B8B 3E03    740      LD  A,3
5B8D CF      750      RST 8
5B8E 1E      760      DEFB #1E
5B8F C9      770      RET
                    780 VARS

```

Pass 2 errors: 00

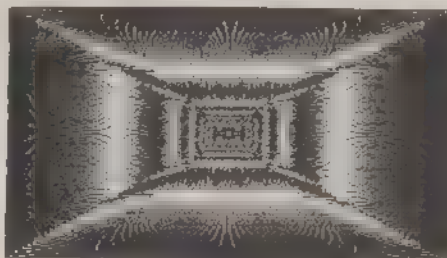
```

L70  5B38  NEXTX 5B1C
NEXTY 5B18  VARS 5B90

```

Table used: 58 from 360

Figure 3.



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## Conditional responses

Jason Orbaum and Geoffrey Campbell, in the fourth part of their series on 6809 assembly language programming, look at the condition code register and branch instructions

So far we have published the assembler versions of Listings one and two.

A lot of you probably saw the command *BNE Loop* and wondered what it did. By a process of elimination, and with a certain amount of common sense, it could have been worked out that this command was replacing the Basic *Goto* that makes the program loop.

This mnemonic does, in fact, stand for Branch if Not Equal. This construction will be dealt with in more detail later, but for now, an explanation of the relative addressing mode.

Up to now, all addresses have been numbers between 0 and 65535, representing an address in memory. In relative addressing, however, the address is given as a number corresponding to the offset from the address at which the instruction currently being executed is stored. This mode is used exclusively for the branch instructions.

On the diagram of the processor in Part 2 of this series there is a section labelled CC Register. This is the Condition Code Register. It is set or reset depending on the value of a byte being computed or transferred and it can be tested and acted upon, for instance by the branch instructions.

The Condition Code Register is set out so:

E F H I N Z V C

where

E, F, and I are used in conjunction with interrupts, and are of no use at the moment;

H is used for Binary Coded Decimal arithmetic, and cannot be tested directly;

N is the negative flag, and is set when the result of a calculation is less than zero; Z is the zero flag, and is set when the result of a calculation is zero, ie, the two numbers under consideration are equal;

V is the overflow flag, and is set when the result of an eight-bit addition is greater than 255;

And C is the carry flag, and acts as a ninth bit for some arithmetic operations.

Of these, only the last four are of any real use with the branch instructions, which are:

BCC = Branch on Carry Clear	(C=0)
BCS = Branch on Carry Set	(C=1)
BEQ = Branch on Equal To Zero	(Z=1)
BNE = Branch on Not Equal To Zero	(Z=0)
BMI = Branch on Minus	(N=1)
BPL = Branch on Plus	(N=0)
BVC = Branch on Overflow Clear	(V=0)
BVS = Branch on Overflow Set	(V=1)

The other branch instructions test for different combinations of CC Bits. These are:

BGE = Branch on Greater Than or Equal To
BGT = Branch on Greater Than
BLE = Branch on Less Than or Equal To
BLT = Branch on Less Than

This list may look daunting, but it is actually very easy to get used to the branch instructions. One way to use them is for comparing numbers. If there is a number in the A register, then to test it to see if it is less than 10, we could use

SUBA #10  
BLT BACK

where BACK is the location to jump to, say a loop of some kind. Unfortunately, this destroys the value in A, so it will have to be stored before testing, and reloaded afterwards, thereby using a memory location as store, and requiring two more machine instructions — hardly ideal code! There is, however, an instruction that does the whole lot in one go. This is the *CMP* (or Compare) instruction.

The test routine now becomes:

CMPA #10  
BLT BACK

It doesn't look any shorter, does it? But it would be in a program, since it cuts out two machine instructions.

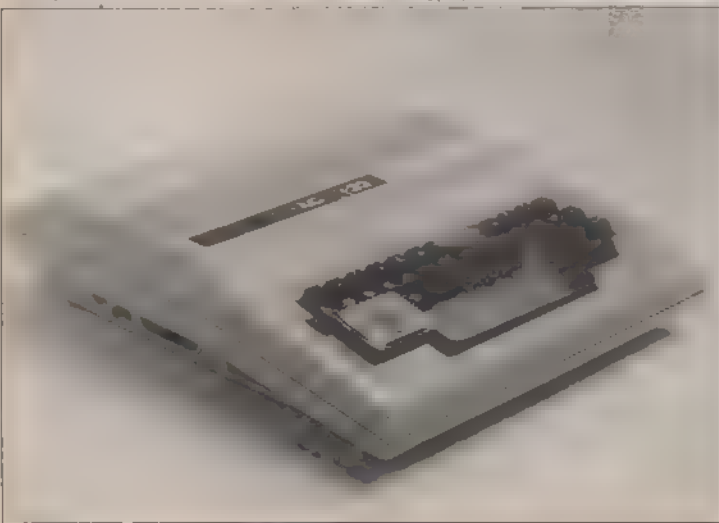
There are two more branch instructions: *BRA* and *BSR*.

First, let's look at *BRA*. This is used in the same way as the others, but it is slightly different in that it is not conditional — the initials stand for Branch Always, and it does just that.

The *BSR* instruction stands for Branch Subroutine, and is not conditional. When it is executed, the address of the next instruction is pushed on to the stack, and execution transferred to the subroutine. When an *RTS* (Return from Subroutine) command is found, the address that was pushed on to the stack before going to the subroutine is pulled from the stack, and execution continues from this point. It should be noted, therefore, that the stack should be left in the same condition just before an *RTS* as it was just before the corresponding *BSR*, unless the return address is to be purposely changed, in which case execution continues from this new address.

The branch instructions only occupy two bytes, in the program, and this means that the address offset can only be between -128 and 127. There is, therefore, another set of instructions called the long branches. The mnemonics are as for normal branches, but preceded by an L. For example, *BRA* becomes *LBRA*. This can now access an offset between -32768 and 32767.

There are another two instructions to modify the order in which a program executes: *JMP* and *JSR*. Both of these use either extended, direct, or indexed addressing. *JMP* jumps to the specified address, whereas *JSR* jumps to a subroutine at the specified address. They are to be avoided if at all possible, so that the code is position independent; that is, it can be stored at any position in memory.



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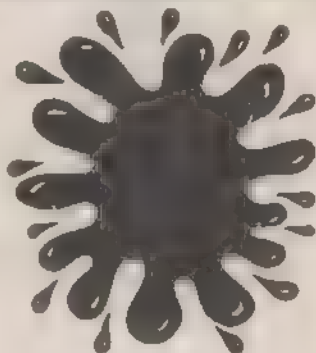


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# A character count

Mark Lawrence develops a 64 character width word processor for the Spectrum

This program uses 64print in a word processor allowing text to be entered on a 64 x 24 format. The program offers the following facilities, all accessed by pressing the cap shift key along with the appropriate key:

Capshift + 0 Delete.

" + 1 Clear memory.

" + 2 Capital lock.

" + 3 Move back one page.

" + 4 Move forward one page.

" + 5 Move cursor left.

" + 6 Move cursor down.

" + 7 Move cursor up.

" + 8 Move cursor right.

Pressing both shift keys causes the cursor to disappear which indicates extended mode. Extended mode has the following facilities:

Pressing S allows text to be saved to tape. The program will ask for the start page. Enter a letter between A and Y, A being the first page and Y the 25th. You will now be asked for the last page, again enter a letter between A and Y, but first start the tape.

Pressing L allows text to be loaded from tape.

Pressing Z allows you to copy the currently displayed screen to the ZX printer.

In addition pressing space will return you to Basic. Enter Goto 30 to return. On a 48k Spectrum you can store 25 pages of text, which amounts to 38400 characters or about 9600 words.

Before typing in the machine code, enter the short basic program and Save "word" Line 1. Having verified this, type in the hex loader and enter the machine code to address 30000, then Save "word code" Code 30000, 1700. Verify this, then clear the machine and rewind the tape. Type Load and start the tape. If all is well the program should load and run, then after a short delay a solid cursor should appear in the top left corner of the screen.

If this does not occur, type in the check program, load the code into address 30000 and check it against the listing, poking any incorrect entries.

## Word Processor Basic

### LIST

```
10 CLEAR 23999:LOAD ""CODE 24000
20 BORDER 0:POKE 23693,40
30 RANDOMIZE USR 24000
```

## WORD PROCESSOR CODE

```
5000 21 00 40 22 5F 00 AF 00
5008 55 01 22 23 77 21 00 SC
500E 77 0D 9E 0A 0D 00 9E CD
5016 00 0E 00 00 5E 21 00 SC
501E 7E FE 0E 00 00 00 20 DA
5026 90 5E 11 00 30 1C 30 00
502E 00 0E 0F 0D 07 00 0D 92
5036 00 2A 5F 01 3A 55 01 05
5046 00 00 15 5F 3A 55 01 05
5056 FE 00 20 04 7C 06 07 07
5066 22 5F 01 00 63 5E 00 00
5076 5E 10 00 00 00 92 00 01
5086 00 00 00 AF 77 7E 00 00
5096 20 00 00 92 00 00 AF FE
50A6 00 00 11 FE 53 0C 1B 00
50B6 00 4C 1A FC 5F FE 50 20
50C6 00 00 00 00 00 AF 0E CD
50D6 00 5E 0F 21 00 5C 77 00
50E6 0A 5D 00 21 00 58 11 01
50F6 50 00 00 00 8D 5C 77
5106 00 00 00 3A 00 61 00 58
5116 3E 07 21 FF 50 3E 01 18
5126 00 FE 40 30 0A 21 00 40
5136 0F 20 5F 61 32 55 61 00
5146 15 05 0E 00 3A 55 61 FE
5156 00 20 00 0E 0F 06 00 2A
5166 5F 61 7E 05 77 24 10 FA
5176 01 01 00 00 7E 0C 20 27
5186 00 00 5E 20 5F 01 FE FF
5196 00 00 5F 3A 55 01 FE 01
51A6 20 00 7D FE FF 20 04 7C
51B6 00 00 07 22 5F 01 AF CD
51C6 03 61 00 E3 00 18 23 FE
51D6 00 20 21 0D 00 5E 2A 5F
51E6 01 7D 00 00 6F 01 20 00
```

```
5ED0 FE 00 20 03 01 00 07 09
5EE0 22 5F 00 0D 03 5E AF 32
5EE8 55 01 1B 1D FE 00 20 1B
5EF0 2A 5F 01 7D 00 1F FE 00
5EF8 20 07 3A 00 01 FE 00 20
5F00 00 00 00 5E 1E FE 0D E5
5F08 5F 10 30 00 09 20 10 2A
5F10 5F 01 7D 00 1F FE 1F 20
5F18 02 3A 55 01 FE 01 20 53
5F20 0D 0A 5E 1E 01 CD E5 5F
5F28 10 1C FE 0A 20 00 CD 00
5F30 1E 2A 5F 00 01 20 00 7D
5F38 00 00 30 00 01 20 07 09
5F40 22 5F 01 0D 03 5E 1B 09
5F48 FE 00 20 1C CD 00 5E 2A
5F50 5F 01 01 20 00 7D 05 20
5F58 30 03 00 70 07 A7 E0 42
5F60 20 5F 01 03 5E 1B 49
5F68 FE 00 20 03 00 0A 5E 00
5F70 0E 00 02 00 3F FE 04 20
5F78 16 3A 5B 01 FE 00 28 34
5F80 3D 32 56 01 CD 9E 00 71
5F88 00 40 00 5F 01 00 77 FE
5F90 05 00 0A 3A 5B 00 11 1B
5F98 20 1A 31 1B E4 FE 07 20
5FA0 1A 00 61 64 11 62 64 00
5FAB 00 06 36 00 ED 00 73 00
5FB0 5D 0D 00 5E CD 92 00 AF
5FB8 32 00 5C 0A 5D 05 05 20
5FC0 5F 01 7C 00 40 00 7F 00
5FC8 3F 00 3F 07 29 0D 0B 55
5FD0 01 7A 16 00 19 00 07 67
5FD8 07 04 67 2E 00 00 11 61
5FE0 04 19 F1 77 00 00 55 61
5FE8 0A 03 0F 01 00 00 11 00
5FF0 20 00 2B FE 01 20 01 23
5FF8 22 5F 01 C9 F5 DD 21 00
6000 5C 11 02 00 AF 37 CD 50
6008 05 00 21 61 64 00 5B 00
6010 5C 3E FF 37 00 56 05 F1
6018 03 10 5D F5 06 02 21 20
6020 01 05 00 10 2E 00 23 10
6028 00 00 00 00 00 00 FE 07
6030 00 04 78 32 57 01 10 E9
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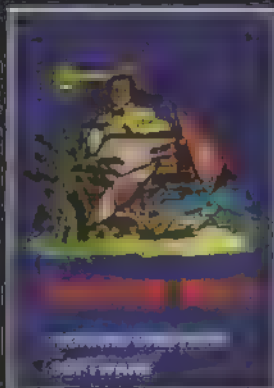
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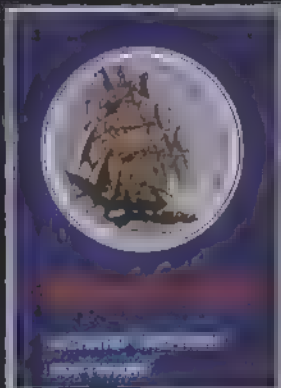
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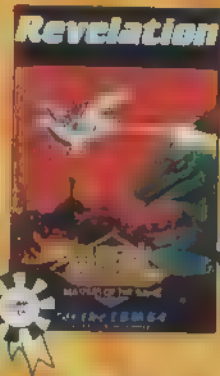
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# Visible trappings

Mark Gornall tries to escape *The Vortex* in a two-player battle of strategy, based on tv's *Adventure Game*

This game will particularly appeal to any fan of the BBC2 tv series *Adventure Game*.

The Vortex is a strategic two-player game based on the last task that the tv adventurers have to complete.

One player (The Opponent) has to cross the playing grid to reach the exit, while the other (The Vortex) tries to prevent the Opponent's escape.

The Opponent cannot see where the

Vortex is on the grid and if an accidental move is made into the Vortex the Opponent loses the game. The Vortex on the other hand can see the positions of both players but cannot move straight over the Opponent. Instead, the Opponent must walk into the invisible trap and the Vortex must predict the Opponent's next move and position accordingly.

The Vortex and Opponent are controlled using the compass directions: E, W, NE, NW, SE, SW.

## Program notes

2	Define variables
4	Clear sound chip
6-22	Introduction
24-36	Vortex move
38-52	Opponent move
54-64	Vortex illegal move
66-74	Vortex win
76-86	Opponent win
88-90	Loss sound
92-116	Draw grid
118-160	Check move

## Variables

P1	= Screen co-ordinate
C1	= Colour co-ordinate
VX	= Vortex's X co-ordinate
VY	= Vortex's Y co-ordinate
X	= Opponent's X co-ordinate
Y	= Opponent's Y co-ordinate
S	= Start of sound chip
V\$	= Name of vortex controller
N\$	= Name of opponent controller
G	= Alternative for VX or X
H	= Alternative for VY or Y

```

1 REM *** THE VORTEX - MARK G, 1984 ***
2 POKES3280,0:POKES3281,0:P1=1024:C1=55296:VX=23:X=17:Y=3:VY=21:S=54272
4 FORI=ST05+24:POKEI,0:NEXT
6 PRINT"CLRL":PRINTTAB(13),"DOWN3JCTRL2JWELCOME TO ARG"
8 PRINT"CBM7JEDOWN2JNOW THAT YOU'VE PAID YOUR DROGNA$,"
10 PRINT"DOWN1JWHAT IS THE NAME OF THE PLAYER WHO WILL"
12 INPUT"DOWN1JPLAY ON BEHALF OF THE VORTEX":V$
14 INPUT"DOWN1JAND YOUR OPPONENTS NAME IS":N$
16 PRINTTAB(7),"DOWN2JCTRL2JGRONDA GRONDA :V$:" AND "N$:FORI=1T0400D:NEXT
18 PRINT"CLRLCTRL6JOPPOONENT:"N$:C=CBM7JCSF7JCTRL6J
19 PRINT"VORTEX:"V$:C=CTRL3JCSFT8J
20 GETA$:IFAS=""THEN20
22 GOTO46
24 GOSUB54:POKEI+VX+40*VY,81:POKEI+VX+40,2:POKEI+X+40*Y,81
26 POKEI+X+40*Y,14:INPUT"CTRL6JCHOMEJWHAT IS THE VORTEX'S MOVE":M$
28 POKEI+VX+40*VY,1:6=VX:H=VY:GOSUB80:X=6:Y=H:GOSUB124
30 IFX=VXANDY=VYTHEN 128
32 POKEI+VX+40*VY,81:POKEI+VX+40*VY,2:PRINT"CHOMEJPRESS A KEY BEFORE "N$:
34 PRINT"SPACE10J":PRINT"COMES BACK TO THE SCREEN."
36 GETA$:IFAS=""THEN36
38 GOSUB54:POKEI+X+40*Y,81:POKEI+X+40*Y,14:PRINT"CHOMEJCTRL6J"N$:
40 INPUT"WHAT IS YOUR MOVE,"M$:POKEI+X+40*Y,1:6=X:H=Y:GOSUB80:X=6:Y=H
42 GOSUB124:POKEI+X+40*Y,81:POKEI+X+40*Y,14:IFX=VXANDY=VYTHEN 136
44 FORI=1T0200D:NEXT:IFY=2:THEN146
46 PRINT"CHOMEJ"N$:C=SPACE3J
48 PRINT"SHOULD NOW BE AWAY FROM THE SCREEN."
50 GETA$:IFAS=""THEN50
52 GOTO24
54 POKES+5,38:POKE6+6,95:POKES+1,15:POKE6+1,34:POKE6+75:POKES+1,83
56 FORI=1T0150:NEXT1:POKES+1,28:POKES+214:FORI=1T000:NEXT1:POKES+2+10:RETURN
58 GOSUB158:PRINT"CLRLCTRL6JWHAT WAS AN ILLEGAL MOVE,"V$
60 PRINT"DOWN3JIM SORRY TO SAY THAT YOU HAVE BEENEDOWN3JCTRL2J"
62 PRINT"DISQUALIFIED !!!"
64 GETA$:IFAS=""THEN132
66 GOTO146
68 GOSUB158:PRINT"CLRLCTRL6J"N$:M$ HAS BEEN EVAPORATED INTO SPACE.DOWN2J"
68 PRINTV$:C=CBM7JYOUR SHUTTLE IS NOW LEAVING"
70 PRINT"DOWN1JFOR EARTH.WELL DONE."
72 GETA$:IFAS=""THEN142
74 RUN
76 FORN=1T04:POKES+24,15:POKES+1,137:POKES+43:POKES+4,33
78 FORI=1T0137:POKES+1,1:POKES+1,1+8:NEXT1:POKES+24,0:NEXTN
80 PRINT"CLRLCBM6JWELL DONE "N$:PRINT"YOU HAVE BEATEN THE VORTEX.DOWN4J"
82 PRINT"CTRL6JYOUR SHUTTLE LEAVES FOR EARTH IN 5 MINS."
84 GETA$:IFAS=""THEN154
86 RUN
88 FORI=1T040:POKES3280,1:POKES3280,0:NEXT1:POKES+24,15:POKES+1,137:POKES+43
90 POKES+1,17:FORI=1T100STEP-1:POKES+1,1:POKES+1,1+8:NEXT1:POKES+24,0:RETURN
92 PRINT"CLRLCTRL6JWELL DONE "N$:FORI=1T04:PRINTTAB(17)"CSFT8JCSFT8JCSFT8J"
94 IF 1,4:THENPRINT"DOWN1JWELL DONE"

```

continued over the page

# Commodore 64

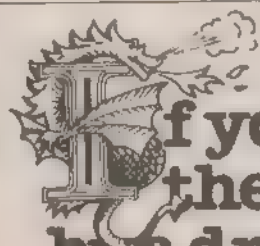
```

96 PRINT"HOMEEDOWN5":FORI=1TO3:PRINTTAB(16)
98 IFI<3THENPRINT"DOWN4":NEXTI
100 PRINT"HOMEEDOWN5":FORI=1TO3:PRINTTAB(15)"/ / \\"
102 IFI<3THENPRINT"DOWN43":NEXTI
104 PRINT"HOMEEDOWN5":FORI=1TO3:PRINTTAB(14)"CSFTQJCSFTC+SJCSFTQJCSFTC+SJCSFTB
J"
106 IFI<3THENPRINT"DOWN43":NEXTI
108 PRINT"HOMEEDOWN5":FORI=1TO3:PRINTTAB(15)"\\ / \ /"
110 IFI<3THENPRINT"DOWN43":NEXTI
112 PRINT"HOMEEDOWN7":FORI=1TO3:PRINTTAB(16)"\\ / \ /"
114 IFI<3THENPRINT"DOWN43":NEXTI
116 PRINTTAB(19)"DOWNJICRV5JEXITRVOFFJ":RETURN
118 IFMS="E"THENG=G+6

120 IFMS="W"THENG=G+5
122 IFMS="NE"THENG=G+3:J=J+3
124 IFMS="NW"THENG=G+3:J=J+3
126 IFMS="SE"THENG=G+3:J=J+3
128 IFMS="SW"THENG=G+3:J=J+3

130 IFG=14THENG=14
132 IFG=20THENG=16
134 IFH=1THENH=11
136 IFH=3THENH=3
138 IFH=3ANDG=17THENH=17
140 IFH=3ANDG=20THENH=13
142 IFH=3ANDG=23THENH=13
144 IFH=9ANDG=17THENH=17
146 IFH=9ANDG=23THENH=13
148 IFH=15ANDG=17THENH=17
150 IFH=9ANDG=23THENH=13
152 IFH=15ANDG=17THENH=17
154 IFH=15ANDG=23THENH=13
156 IFH=21ANDG=17THENH=17
158 IFH=21ANDG=23THENH=23
160 RETURN

```



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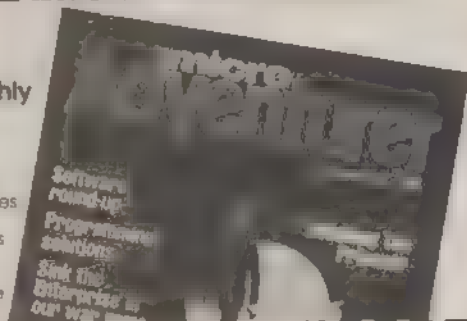
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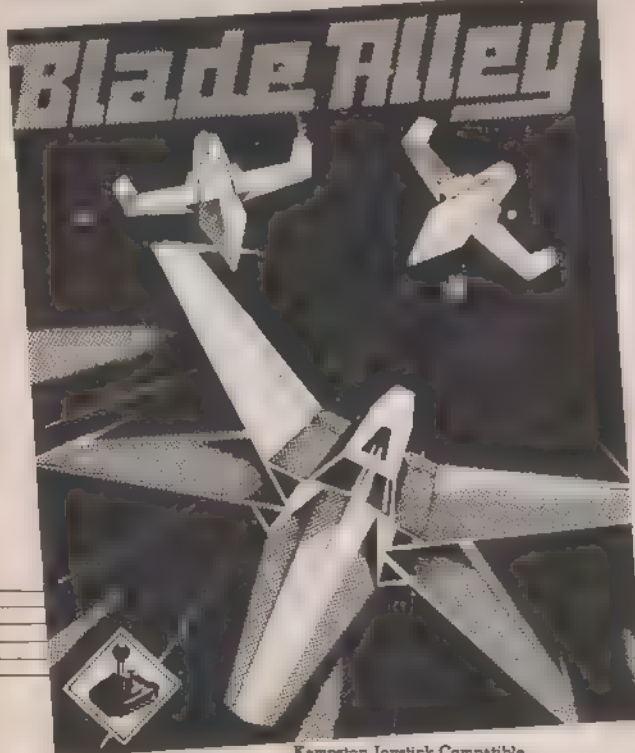
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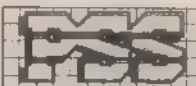
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## A balancing act

Robert Crook presents a program to balance chemistry equations

This program is written for the BBC Model A or B and occupies some 2K of memory. The program is relatively short and uses the Mode 7 text.

If you are familiar with the idea of chemistry equations, then you will also be used to the idea of balancing them. With short equations this is often very simple, but when balancing longer equations the process is often hard, time-consuming and monotonous. This program can solve any balancing problem, no matter how long the equation.

For those of you not familiar with the idea of balancing, here is a brief explanation: When two or more chemicals are mixed together or heated they often react to produce different chemicals. For example, when sulphur is burned in oxygen the resultant gas is sulphur dioxide. This reaction can be expressed in words, ie:

Sulphur + oxygen = sulphur dioxide

The same reaction can, however, be expressed more precisely in the form of an equation, ie:



If you examine this equation you will see that there are equal amounts of each element on each side of the equation, eg, on the left hand side there is one sulphur atom and two oxygen atoms. On the right hand side there is also one sulphur atom and two oxygen atoms. Therefore, this equation is already balanced. The following is not balanced:



If you examine only the oxygen atoms you will see that there are two on the left but three on the right. The equation cannot, therefore, be balanced already. It would take considerable time to work this out without the aid of this program. As it is, the balanced equation is:



Using the program to solve this, the inputs would have been the following:

Number of reactant chemicals  
(Those on LHS) 2  
Number of product chemicals  
(Those on RHS) 2  
Input the reactant chemicals C4H10 (Press Return)  
O2 (Press Return)  
Input the product chemicals H2O  
H2O

You will now have to wait for the computer to display the balanced equations on the screen.

All the elements used so far have only one letter for their symbol and this must be a capital letter, eg, C, S, H, etc. A great deal of elements, however, have two letters for their symbol, eg, Na, Pb, Li, etc. When inputting these types of elements you must

enter the first letter as a capital and the second as lower case.

Line Number	Comments
90-190	These lines present the balanced equation
200-300	The equation is entered here
310-980	This procedure works out the number of atoms on each side of the equation according to the various elements

It is difficult to explain exactly how the program works. The best way is to take an example and balance it as the computer

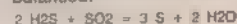
would. Let the equation be:



This is the reaction of hydrogen sulphide with sulphur dioxide to produce sulphur and water.

Firstly, the computer determines the elements present and places their symbols in an array. In this case there are three elements H, O and S. The next step is to find out how many atoms of each element are on each side of the equation. This is best shown in table form.

You can see in 5) that the number of atoms of each element on each side of the equation is equal. The equation is now balanced:



Elements present	LHS			RHS			
	H	S	O	H	S	O	
1) No atoms	2	2	2	2	1	1	Add up the numbers on the LHS=6 (2+2+2)
2) 2	2	2	2	4	1	2	Add up the numbers on the RHS=4 More atoms on LHS, therefore add to the RHS LHS has more S and more O. Try to find a chemical on the RHS with both S and O in. There is not one, so choose one with just S or O in. H2O will do. Place a 2 in front of this and calculate the result. H2S+SO2=S+2H2O
3) 4	4	3	2	4	1	2	Add up the numbers in 2) for the LHS=6 Add up numbers for the RHS=7. Therefore add to the LHS. RHS has more H. Try to find a chemical on the LHS with H in. H2S will do. Put a 2 in front of this and get result. 2H2S+SO2=2H2O
4) 4	4	3	2	4	2	2	Add up the numbers in 3) for the LHS=9 Add up numbers for the RHS=7. Add to the RHS. LHS has more S. Find chemical on the RHS with S. S will do. Place a 2 in front of this. 2H2S+SO2=2S+2H2O
5) 4	4	3	2	4	3	2	Add up the numbers in 4) for the LHS=9 Add up the numbers for the RHS=6. Add to the RHS. LHS has more S. Find chemical on the RHS with S. The S will do. There is already a 2 in front so now we must place a 3 there. 2H2S+SO2=3S+2H2O

```

10 REM*****
20 REM Equations Balancer
30 REM Robert Crook
40 REM March 1984
50 REM*****
60 MODE 7
70 PROCinput
80 PROCworkout
90 CLS:PRINT TAB(2,5)CHR$(133);"The Equation has been balanced."
100 PRINT
110 FOR AZ=1 TO V
120 IF U(AZ)<>1 THEN PRINT CHR$(133);STR$(U(AZ));
130 PRINT CHR$(133);A$(AZ);
140 IF AZ=RC OR (AZ>RC AND AZ<V) THEN PRINT "+";
150 IF AZ=RC THEN PRINT CHR$(133);"1";
160 NEXT
170 PRINTTAB(8,15)CHR$(134);"Press any key "
180 S=BET:RUN
    
```



```

190 END
200 DEFPROCInput
210 PRINT "PRINT CHR$(145);CHR$(157);CHR$(131);CHR$(141)" Equations Balanc
er "PRINT CHR$(145);CHR$(157);CHR$(131);CHR$(141)" Equations Balancer "
220 PRINT "
230 INPUT " How many reactant chemicals "RC
240 INPUT " How many product chemicals "PC
250 V=RC+PC:DIM A$(V)
260 PRINTCHR$(131)" Input the reactant chemicals "
270 FOR A=1 TO RC:INPUT TAB(2);A$(A):A$(A)=A$(A)+" ":NEXT
280 PRINTCHR$(131)" Input the product chemicals"
290 FOR B=(1+RC) TO V:INPUT TAB(2);A$(B):A$(B)=A$(B)+" ":NEXT B
300 ENDPROC
310 DEFPROCWorkout
320 DIM B$(20):H=1
330 FOR CX=1 TO V
340 FOR DX=1 TO LEN(A$(CX))
350 E$=MID$(A$(CX),DX,1):E=VAL(E$)
360 IF E<>0 OR E$=" " OR E$="0" THEN 430
370 IF ASC(MID$(A$(CX),DX+1,1))>90 THEN E$=MID$(A$(CX),DX,2):DX=DX+1
380 B$(H)=E$:G=0
390 FOR FZ=0 TO H-1
400 IF B$(FZ)=B$(H) THEN G=1
410 NEXT
420 IF G<1 THEN H=H+1
430 NEXT
440 NEXT
450 NE=H-1:DIM A$(VNE),T$(NE*2),U$(V)
460 FOR AZ=1 TO V:U$(AZ)=1:NEXT
470 FOR A2=1 TO VNE:A(A2)=0:NEXT
480 FOR K2=1 TO NE
490 FOR J2=1 TO V
500 FOR JZ=1 TO LEN(A$(J2))-1
510 Y$="":E=0
520 E$=MID$(A$(J2),JZ,1):F$=MID$(A$(J2),JZ+1,1)
530 E=VAL(MID$(A$(J2),JZ+1,1))
540 IF ASC(F$)>90 THEN E=VAL(MID$(A$(J2),JZ+2,1)):JZ=JZ+1:E=E+F$
550 E1=VAL(MID$(A$(J2),JZ+2,1)):W$=MID$(A$(J2),JZ+2,1)
560 IF (W$="0" OR E1<>0) AND E<>0 THEN JZ=JZ+1:Y$=STR$(E)+STR$(E1):E=VAL
(Y$)
570 IF E=0 THEN E=1
580 IF B$(K2)=E$ THEN A(K2+(NE*(J2-1)))=E*U$(J2)+A(K2+(NE*(J2-1)))
590 NEXT:NE=NE+1:NEXT
600 PROCCount(1,RC,0)
610 PROCCount(RC+1,V,NE)
620 IF D=1 THEN B$=""
630 T=0:T1=0:O=0:I$=""
640 FOR NX=1 TO NE
650 T=T+(NX):T1=T1+(NE+NX)
660 NEXT
670 IF T1>T THEN 710
680 FOR NZ=1 TO NE
690 IF T(NX)>T(NZ+NE) THEN I$=I$+B$(NZ)
700 NEXT:GOTO 740
710 FOR NX=1 TO NE
720 IF T(NX+NE)>T(NZ) THEN I$=I$+B$(NX)
730 NEXT:O=1
740 IF D=1 THEN ST=1:F=RC ELSE ST=RC+1:F=V
750 GT=0:TT=0:R=0
760 FOR NZ=ST TO F
770 FOR P2=1 TO LEN I$
780 FOR DZ=1 TO LEN A$(NZ)
790 X$=MID$(I$,P2,1):Y$=MID$(I$,P2+1,1)
800 IF ASC(Y$)>90 THEN X$=X$+Y$:P2=P2+1
810 IF MID$(A$(NZ),DZ,1)=MID$(I$,P2,1) THEN TT=TT+1
820 NEXT
830 NEXT
840 IF TT>GT THEN ST=TT:R=NZ
850 TT=0:NEXT
860 U(R)=U(R)+1
870 GOTO 470
880 ENDPROC
890 DEFPROCCount (START,FINISH,M)
900 LOCAL W:N=NE
910 FOR L2=1 TO NE
920 T=0
930 FOR K2=START-1 TO FINISH-1
940 T=T+A(L2+K2*NE)
950 NEXT
960 T(L2+M)=T
970 NEXT
980 D=1:FOR W2=1 TO NE:IF T(W2)>T(W2+NE) THEN D=0
990 NEXT
1000 ENDPROC

```

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# Open Forum

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## Hangman

on Dragon 32

The old game of Hangman is for two players. The first enters a word and the

second has to guess it. If an incorrect letter is entered the scaffold starts to build culminating with the figure being hanged to a suitable dirge. When the word is guessed, Yankee Doodle is played.

Program notes  
110 360 Sets up letters

370 490 Sets up scaffold and man  
510 700 Prints title page and plays tune  
720 880 Inputs word to be guessed  
900 930 Gives audible signal to indicate word cleared from screen  
940 1070 Prints screen including number of dashes indicating number of letters in word  
1090 1220 Letters are entered & checked to see if they are in the word. Will print them in correct position  
1230 1340 Prints part of scaffold if letter not in word  
1360 1460 Prints up correct word  
1480 1530 Asks if you want another go  
1600 1670 Clears the screen

```
10 *****
20 *****/*****
30 *****
40 *****NEWB*****
50 *****
60 CLEAR 700
70 PCLS
80 PRODE J,1:SCREEN1,0
90 DIM C(26)
100 DIM A(120)
110 A(1) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
120 A(27) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
130 A(54) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
140 A(81) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
150 A(108) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
160 A(135) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
170 A(162) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
180 A(189) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
190 A(216) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
200 A(243) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
210 A(270) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
220 A(297) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
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240 A(351) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
250 A(378) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
260 A(405) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
270 A(432) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
280 A(459) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
290 A(486) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
300 A(513) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
310 A(540) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
320 A(567) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
330 A(594) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
340 A(621) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
350 A(648) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
360 A(675) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
370 DIM B(12)
380 B(1) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
390 B(2) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
400 B(3) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
410 B(4) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
420 B(5) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
430 B(6) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
440 B(7) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
450 B(8) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
460 B(9) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
470 B(10) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
480 B(11) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
490 B(12) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
500 B(13) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
510 B(14) = "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ"
520 C = " "
530 DRAW "B15,30;" + A(1)
540 DRAW "B45,30;" + A(1)
550 DRAW "B75,30;" + A(1)
560 DRAW "B105,30;" + A(1)
570 DRAW "B135,30;" + A(1)
580 DRAW "B165,30;" + A(1)
590 DRAW "B195,30;" + A(1)
600 LINE(15,35)-(215,35),PSET
610 DRAW "SAC2"
620 LINE(15,30)-(215,30),PSET
```

```
630 DRAW "C4"
640 LINE (15,37)-(215,37),PSET
650 FOR K=1 TO 12
660 DRAW B(K)
670 NEXT
680 PLAY "D315F323EEDCOEF D 2C"
690 FOR K=1 TO 10000
700 NEXT
710 GOSUB 1000
720 DRAW "C2"
730 A(1) = B(15,40) + A(15) + B(15,40) + A(1)
740 B(15,40) = A(15) + B(15,40) + A(15) + B(15,40)
750 DRAW "SAC3"
760 " "
770 A(1) = B(15,40) + A(15) + B(15,40) + A(1)
780 A(15,40) = A(15) + B(15,40) + A(15) + B(15,40)
790 IF A(15,40) = A(15) THEN B(15,40) = A(15)
800 IF A(15,40) = A(15) THEN B(15,40) = A(15)
810 IF A(15,40) = A(15) THEN B(15,40) = A(15)
820 ELSE GOTO 780
830 A(15,40) = A(15) + B(15,40) + A(15) + B(15,40)
840 A(15,40) = A(15) + B(15,40) + A(15) + B(15,40)
850 IF A(15,40) = A(15) THEN B(15,40) = A(15)
860 D = D + 1
870 IF LEND(D) = 26 THEN B(15,40) = A(15)
880 GOTO 780
890 GOSUB 1000
900 FOR K=1 TO 1000 STEP 100
910 FOR K=1 TO 100 STEP 1
920 SOUND K,1
930 NEXT K
940 DRAW "C2"
950 DRAW "B15,40;" + A(15) + B(15,40) + A(15) + B(15,40)
960 B(15,40) = A(15) + B(15,40) + A(15) + B(15,40)
970 A(15,40) = A(15) + B(15,40) + A(15) + B(15,40)
980 A(15,40) = A(15) + B(15,40) + A(15) + B(15,40)
990 LINE(15,185)-(122,148),PSET,0
1000 DRAW "C3"
1010 PAINT(15,185),0,2
1020 LINE(15,185)-(122,148),PSET,0
1030 B = 0
1040 B = 0
1050 B = 0
1060 B = 0
1070 NEXT
1080 DRAW "C3"
1090 B = 0
1100 B = 0
1110 A = INKEY$
1120 IF A = " " OR A = " " OR A = CHR$(13) THEN
1130 IF A = " " THEN B = 0
1140 A = 0
1150 B = 0
1160 FOR K=1 TO LEND(D)
```



```

1120 IF MOD(C0,X1)=0 AND C(X)=1 THEN
GOTO 1110
1130 IF MOD(C0,X1)=0 AND C(X)=1 THEN
C0=C0+1:STR$(C0)+STR$(C0)+1:ASC(C0)
1140 IF MOD(C0,X1)=1:GOTO 1100
1150 IF MOD(C0,X1)=2 THEN C0=C0+25:GOTO 1210
1200 C=C0
1210 IF C=255 THEN GOTO 1460
1220 C=C+1
1230 SOUND 150,1
1240 IF C=LEN(C0) THEN GOTO 1460
1250 IF C=1 THEN C=C+1 ELSE GOTO 1110
1260 C=C+1
1270 C=C+1
1280 IF C=1 THEN C=C+25:GOTO 1110
1290 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1300 C=C+1
1310 C=C+1
1320 IF C=1 THEN 1330 ELSE GOTO 1110
1330 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1340 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1350 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1360 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1370 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1380 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1390 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1400 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)

```

```

(ASC(C0)+1:STR$(C0)+1:ASC(C0)
1410 IF C=255 THEN C=C+25:GOTO 1440
1420 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1430 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1440 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1450 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1460 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1470 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1480 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1490 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1500 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1510 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1520 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1530 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1540 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1550 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1560 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1570 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1580 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1590 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1600 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1610 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1620 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1630 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1640 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1650 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1660 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)
1670 C=C+1:STR$(C)+STR$(C)+1:ASC(C)

```

Hangman  
by A Newby

## Key Bleeper

on BBC

This program enables any BBC micro with operating system 1.0 or above to produce a bleep when a key is pressed. The program works by first using the three FX calls to set

the voice, duration and pitch of the VDU7 bleep.

The machine code part simply alters the vectored jumps of the OSWRCH write character routine at &20E and &20F to jump to &D00 the location of the routine which produces the bleep. The accumulator is pushed on to the stack, which contains the ASCII code of the letter to be printed, then the accumulator is loaded with 7, the

code for a bleep. Then a jump to subroutine is made to &EOA4 (the actual address of OSWRCH). Then the code for the letter is pulled off the stack and a direct jump is made to &EOA4.

\*FX211, 1 Sets VDU7 bleep to channel 1  
\*FX213,200 Sets bleep to pitch 200  
\*FX214,1 Sets bleep to duration 1  
CALL&8000 is the equivalent of New

```

10*FX211,1
20*FX214,1
30*FX213,200
50P%=&D000
60C0PT2
70PHA
80LDA#7
90JSR&EOA4
100PLA
110JMP&EOA4
120J
1407&20E=0
1507&20F=&D
160CALL&8000
>RUN
>O.
>RUN
OD00 C0PT2
OD00 4B PHA
OD01 A9 07 LDA#7
OD03 20 A4 E0 JSR&EOA4
OD06 6B PLA
OD07 4C A4 E0 JMP&EOA4

```

Key Bleeper  
by Philip Venables

## Nasties

## on Spectrum

This program is written in *Basic*, although a machine code routine has been used to produce some good sound effects. The

programme is not very long so the game is fast. Full instructions are included in the programme.

**Variables used**  
 HS —High score  
 SC —Score  
 F —Vertical position of align

P — Horizontal position of alien  
S — Colour of alien  
A — Horizontal position of player

Graphic symbols A and B have been used for the two types of alien.

Large

35 A

40 B

[illegible]

```

10 LET M3=0: GO SUB 8000: LET
A=15
15 GO SUB 8000
20 LET SC=0: BRIGHT 1 PAPER 0
INK 0: BORDER 1: CLS
21 PRINT AT 15,A: INK 2:
22 PRINT AT 21,0: PAPER 2: INK
3:

```

```

PRINT AT 0.0, PAPER 1: INK
CORE 0, FLASH 1: NASTI
FLASH 0, HI
INK 0, HA
RANDOMIZE: LET S=INT (RND*

```

```

50 400 LET AS="X"
51 400 IF 3/6 THEN LET AS="X"
52 400 LET P=INT (RND*32)
53 400 FOR F=1 TO 20
54 400 IF OTTO (S,P)=55 THEN GO TO

```

```

80 PRINT AT F,A, INK 5,A#;
80 LET Z$=INKEY$: IF Z$=" " THEN
90 PRINT AT 15,A, " " LET A=A+1
Z$="8" AND A=31: IZ$="5" AND A=3

```

```

100 PRINT AT 15,H,"1WK 1, ",
110 BEEP ".004,F#2
120 IF ATTR (F#1,P) < 56 THEN GO
TO 130
130 PRINT AT F,P;" ",
140 NEXT F

```

```

300 GO TO 38
400 POKE 32504,70: POKE 32503,1
500: POKE 32506,2: POKE 32525,29:
RANDOMIZE USA 32501: POKE 32525
600: RANDOMIZE USA 32501
700: IF 5<15 THEN GO TO 10

```

```

405 IF SC=15 THEN GO TO 400
410 POKE 32504,100: POKE 32503,
100: POKE 32506,20: POKE 32525,2
8: RANDOMIZE USR 32501: POKE 325
25,20: RANDOMIZE USR 32501
450 IF SC=HS THEN GO TO 400

```

```

400 PRINT AT 5,5; PAPER 6; INK
0;"YOU HAVE A HIGH SCORE!"; LET
IS=SC
400 PRINT AT 10,6; PAPER 7; INK
0;"PRESS ANY KEY TO PLAY"
101 IF INKEY="" THEN GO TO 400

```

```

400 BEEP .01,40
400 GO TO 20
500 POKE 32500,100: POKE 32505,
2: POKE 32525,20: RANDOMIZE USR
32501

```

```

1001 LET SC=50: PRINT AT 0,0;
1002 INK 7,SC: ""
1003 IF SC<7 THEN GO TO 30
1004 POKE 32504,100: POKE 32505,
1005 POKE 32506,0: POKE 32507,0
1006 RANDOMIZE USR 32501: POKE 32508,0
1007 RANDOMIZE USR 32501
1008 LET SC=SC-50: PRINT AT 0,0;
1009 INK 7,SC
1010 GO TO 30

```

8000 PAPER 1: INK 7: BORDER 1: C  
L5  
8010 PRINT AT 0,5; INVERSE 1;"NA  
STIES-8 Andrew Pilby"  
8020 PRINT ("The object of the s

```

3000 1000  stop the nasties if
3010 1000  the ground, if you d
3020 1000  the nasties then th
3030 1000  collect on the grow
3040 1000  .If a pile of nasties reaches
3050 1000  the height of your scoop you lose

```

```
5030 PRINT "The pasties that I  
5040 caught are worth 5 points each  
5050 (K), but the white pastier (M) is  
5060 worth 50 points away from you."  
5070 PRINT "Use 'S' for left and
```

```

0050 PRINT AT 18,5;"Press any key
to start"
0060 IF INKEY$="" THEN GO TO 800
0070 GOTO 0110 RETURN

```

```

DOO1 PRINT AT 10,5;"Please wait
moment"
DOO1 FOR F=144 TO 145: FOR G=0 TO 7
O 7: READ A: POKE USA CHR$(F+G),A
NEXT G: NEXT F

```

```

0010 DEF FN A(N)=(CODE A$(N))-48
0020 CODE A$(N)=55+(CODE A$(N)-5
0030 AND CODE A$(N))/84)
0040 LET A$="F31110002260A30465C1
0050 IF 1F2EEFFEE10ED794310FE2520F41C1

```

```

9010 FOR F=1 TO LEN A$ STEP 2: P
9020 OK=32500+F/2,15*FN A(F)+FN A(F+
9030 1): NEXT F
9040 RETURN
9050 DATA 102,35,60,90,125,180,3

```

**Nasties**

## Citadel

on Vic 20

This is a game for a Vic with Super Expander. The player has to defend the

citadel from flames, which fall from the sky. To stop the flames, there is a magic shield, which can be put below the flames by use of the joystick. However, if the joystick is not constantly moved from left to right, the shield will shrink and fail.

### Program notes

0-70	Define constants
100-295	Move and draw shield
300-400	Select and move flame
410-610	End Sequence
800-990	Unplot old & make new flame
1000-1800	Draw citadel
1850-2000	Define initial variables

```

0 REM CITADEL
1 REM BY STEPHEN LOUGHMAN
2 COLOR14,5,1,0
3 DEF FNR(Z):=INT(RND(1)*Z)
4 REM FNR= RND. OF FLAMES
5 REM PINKL DECAY RATE
60 NX:=2:MY=1
70 GOSUB1000
78 T1$= "000000"
80 REM MAIN LOOP:
90 R=RJCV(0):OW=W:OY=Y
110 IF (R AND 1)=0 THEN W=W+X:Y=Y
120 IF R AND 3=0 THEN W=0
140 IF R AND 1 AND 3 THEN Y=Y-1
150 IF R AND 2 AND 3 THEN Y=Y+1
200 W=4*HD
210 IF W=200 THEN W=0

```

```

230 J:=J+2:IF J=10 THEN J:=9
240 IF Y<0 THEN Y=0
250 SOUND$(128+W/2,1,128+(700-Y)/5,5,0,15
260 IF Y>700 THEN Y=700
280 GRAVE,B=OW,OYTOB=OW,OY
290 GRAVE,B=W,YTOB=W,Y
295 IF W<1 THEN W=1
300 F=F*NRN(1)
305 P=X(1F):Q=Y(F)
310 IF P=0 AND Q=0 THEN ROOT(P,Q)>F THEN S00
320 Q=Q+PD
340 R=C+U(F):J=JFP>KORP<0 THEN S00
350 IF ROOT(P,Q)>C THEN C=C*(C<F)<F THEN Y400
360 PDINTEL,P,Q
370 X(F)=P+Y(F)=Q
380 GOTQ1000
400 IF Q<700 OR (Q>700 AND P<250 OR Q>742) THEN N000

```

# Walters

## LOOK

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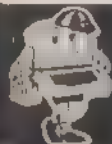
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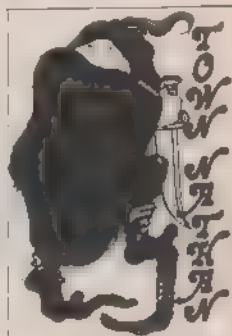
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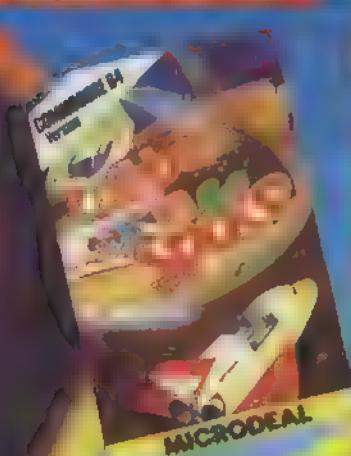


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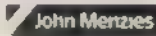

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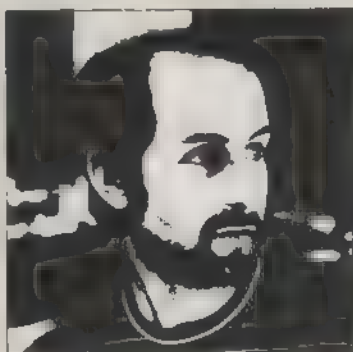
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# Tony Bridge's Adventure Corner



## Happy birthday!

The Grand Elf's first birthday passed without mention a couple of weeks ago — not even a card! Oh well!

In the first year of the Adventure Corner, a lot of changes have been seen. 1983 has to be the Year of *The Hobbit* as far as I am concerned — this is the program that, in my opinion, changed the face of computer-adventuring more than any program since Scott Adams' *Adventureland* and before that, the original *Colossal Cave*. In a moment we'll get on to the *Hobbit* book, but first, let's take a look at *Knight's Quest*, by Phipps Associates.

Regular readers may know that this is a particular favourite of mine — whereas *The Hobbit* was revolutionary in bringing sophisticated graphics and language analysis to the popular microcomputer, *Knight's Quest* was the first of the many programs to simplify the approach, and use the techniques in a less complex fashion.

A lot of the pleasure is gained from K's Q, for me, is the way in which the game grows from a rather innocuous beginning, which may put many people off, to a rich and complex middle and endgame.

A few weeks ago, I looked at some of the opening problems that hold people up. Although it may seem, at times, as if the

whole adventure is going to revolve around how to get through the narrow cleft in the rocks, or how to get across the river, this is only scratching the surface.

Guy Nash is having trouble with the grate, which is very early on — try saying *Prise*, Guy! Tommy Agersnap writes me from Denmark, asking for help in the wasteland. Paul Larcher's mum, is also having trouble there:

"My mother has really got interested in adventure games on my Spectrum (I'd rather have arcade games). She loves *The Hobbit* and others, but she doesn't seem to be moving anywhere in *Knight's Quest*. She has the Dragon following her, the book of Spells, and the Dwarf as Squire, but she can't get to any location but the wastelands and can't get on with the adventure. Can you help, please?"

K's Q is a good one to start with, Paul, as it contains many of the problems that you will meet in other adventures. First of all, Mum, try taking another look at that book — it might give you an idea! To cross the river, you will have to get rid of the Dragon — some time ago, I recommended killing it, but I've since found, after reading the Book of Spells, that the Dragon can be put to much better use. Have you managed to explore the location on the other side of the narrow cleft? There you will find, in a casket, the Magic Compass. Now proceed to the wastelands.

You must make a map as you move around, and, if necessary, drop some of the objects that you are carrying, in various places. This will prevent you from going round and round in circles, as you will come across those objects from time to time. There are a couple of objects that you will need to keep with you, the compass being one. This, when you get to the final location in the wastelands, will come to life and give you instructions for your next move. Obey them and you're through! The maze of the wastelands is not randomly generated, so your map will hold good for future games.

More on K's Q next week.

Last week, I mentioned the new book

from Melbourne House, *A Guide to Playing the Hobbit* by David Elkan (see below). I have since received a pre-publication copy, and it will be everything that a frustrated *Hobbit* will want. It is quite slim (only 75 pages in all), but contains details of every location, along with the illustrations and hints on how to tackle the various puzzles.

The book is divided into three sections: the first is a general guide to playing the adventure, with advice on making maps, reacting with all the various characters, etc.

The next part shows you how to interpret the *Help* clues given to the player throughout the course of the game (the clues here are given, largely, in a "letter-substitution" code, a method which will be familiar to Corner readers!), while the third part is a full reference section listing all the locations, their exits and any other commands you may need to pass certain obstacles.

So, this book can be used in a multitude of ways. Newcomers to *The Hobbit* can dip into the text, confident that they will gain useful advice that will not detract from the playing of the classic — while adventurers who may be stuck (in the *Goblin's Dungeon*?) will find just enough help to nudge them on their way again.

Although short references are made to the behaviour of some of the characters, I would have liked to have seen more detailed discussion on the playing of the adventure — many people, ask, for instance, "What is the use of the Golden Key?" and similar questions — a section on various *Hobbit* bugs would also have been welcome.

This series of articles is designed for novice and experienced Adventurers alike. Each week Tony Bridge will be looking at different Adventures and advising you on some of the problems and pitfalls you can expect to encounter. So, if you have an Adventure you want reviewed, or if you are stuck in an Adventure and cannot progress any further write to: Tony Bridge, Adventure Corner, Popular Computing Weekly, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.

## 50 BOOKS TO BE WON!



Enter our competition by answering the questions below and win a copy of *A Guide to Playing The Hobbit*, by David Elkan published by Melbourne House. When you have answered the questions, fill in the coupon and send it together with last week's coupon to PCW, 12-13 Little Newport St., London WC2R 3LD by 10 May 1984. The first 50 correct entries will receive a copy of the book.

1. What is Durlin's Day?
2. What is Thorin's last name?
3. Where does Elrond live?
4. What is Gollum's birthday present?
5. What is the answer to this riddle: 'A box without hinges, key or lid, Yet golden treasure inside is hid'?
6. Where does Gandalf's cousin, Radagast live?
7. Why did Bilbo name his sword Sting?
8. What is the name of Thorin's father?
9. What is the necklace of Girion, Lord of Dale, made from?
10. What was laid on Thorin's tomb?

### RULES

- 1) Each entry must consist of two coupons.
- 2) Answers must be on a separate sheet of paper.
- 3) No correspondence will be entered into.
- 4) All entries must be received by the closing date, 10 May, 1984.

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## MIND THE GAP

Richard McCarthy of Llantrithyd, nr Cowbridge, South Glamorgan, South Wales writes:

**Q** I have just finished only half of a game program I have invented, because after 65000 for a line number I get a message Syntax Error. I think this is terrible because it means you cannot do very big programs on the Vic. Can I change this?

**A** I am wondering if you are not getting a little confused. What size gaps are you putting between your line numbers? If you are using a thousand, then this is much too big. Try a hundred, though again, most people would consider this far too high.

Whatever problems with the Vic's memory mapping there might be I think the situation is not as bad as you suggest. No home computer at all could have a big program by these standards, unless they were equipped with banked switching and a large amount of extra RAM. If, for example, you reduced your gaps to a hundred, and used 650 lines, the line numbers would take 12K alone — each address is made up of two bytes. You do not say what size memory expansion you have on your computer, but even if it is 32K this is a large amount to lose in line numbering. Perhaps you do not realise that every single number from 1 to over 64000 can in theory be used. Gaps are only left in programs to make design changes simpler.

The limit of addressing is decided initially by the CPU, on all the common home com-

puters this is 65,535. I would suggest that you keep all the gaps in your line numbers to fifty. This should still be more than enough, and will mean that you will run out of Ram, long before you run out of possible line numbers.

## OVER IN A FLASH

Philip Smith, of 16 Belmont Close, Green Lane, Clifton, York YO3 6QR, writes:

**Q** While constructing a maze program for my Spectrum, I came across an annoying bug. When the character came in line with maze graphics, the graphics started flashing. Could you tell me how to get around this?

**A** The first thing is that this is no bug. It's caused by use of the Over command. When you are printing your character, I presume that you are using `Print At x,y;Over 1;` etc. ... this will cause a flashing effect.

The only way of getting around this problem is either to avoid printing on top of your maze graphics (ie, not let your character move onto it), or not to use overprinting.

## IS IT LEGAL?

Michael Stewart of Leeds Road, Bradford, writes:

**Q** Am I within the law, swapping commercial programs, in return for others, offered in your classified columns?

**A** It all depends on how the word trade might be defined in court. On the one hand, many cassettes cannot be sold, lent or hired by way of trade. Barter, when you exchange cassettes, is a form of trade. On the other hand though, the cassette is your own private property, and you may do with it as you wish. If you choose to give it to someone, who then chooses to give you something in return, then gifts (at this level), are not illegal, nor liable to such things as capital transfer tax.

In practice I would doubt

that you would get into trouble for simply swapping a cassette you have bought for another. However that means what it says, you must have bought it, and more importantly, the program that might be on it. If you have not then you are swapping a product that does not belong to you in the first place. That is plainly illegal, and would make you liable to penalties under the copyright acts. If you have, for some reasons, bought or swapped an illegal tape, then that is also a crime — even if you did so in good faith.

## BLOWING BUBBLES

Phil Strike of Elvedon Way, Maidenhead, writes:

**Q** I see, from these times, references to Bubble Memory. I gather that it has not lived up to early expectation, and will not be readily available for home micros. (I now have a Dragon 64, which is enough new technology to last me a life time). However, would it be possible for you to explain to me what I, and presumably other home users are missing, by not having 'Bubble Memory'?

**A** Bubble memory was the great revolution in data storage that never quite happened, or at least not to date. The theory and the advantages are sound enough, what has let this form of storage down so far is the practical technology. It is expensive to produce the various driver circuits necessary.

Strictly speaking, Bubble is magnetic data storage media, like tape or a disc, although it looks more like a chip. It works on the theory of magnetic domains or 'bubbles' that are created when special areas have their magnetic fields aligned in the opposite direction to a prevailing ones. These are the domains or bubbles and there are thousands of them to the inch. The bubbles are part

of a slice of what is, in effect, magnetic tape. Over this is a film, and a series of metal tracks, that control the magnetic fields. You can think of the memory as the shunting of a large number of data trains around numerous loops of track.

Reading the data has to be done sequentially and is determined by the presence of a bubble at a particular place on the loop: yes equals Binary 1, no equals Binary 0. Essentially it is a serial system.

Bubble memory is potentially much faster than Ram but the technology of reading it at the rate it is moved is not yet available so in practice it is much slower and more expensive.

Bubble does have some present day uses; it is less susceptible to heat and climate and can store information in a smaller space than other systems. There are a number of expensive portable business systems that use it.

## NEW GRAPHICS

L H Tang, of 51 Elgin Street, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, writes:

**Q** I own a 16K ZX81 and I am bored of the graphics characters. I would like to know if they can be changed to my design. If this can be done please tell me how this can be achieved.

**A** Unfortunately you cannot change the character set as easily on the ZX81 as you can on the Spectrum. This is due to the fact that the ZX81 character set lives in the Rom whilst the Spectrum character set lives in the Ram.

Your only options with the ZX81 are either to store your own characters (in an array) and print them, or buy one of the multitude of Graphics Extension Roms available for the ZX81.

Is there anything about your computer you don't understand, and which everyone else seems to take for granted? Whatever your problem *Peek* it to Ian Beardsmore and every week he will *Poke* back as many answers as he can. The address is *Peek & Poke*, PCW, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.

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## FOR HIRE

**HIRE A COMPUTER FOR ZX81** upwards for a week or a year. We also buy and sell second-hand computers, magazines and books. Business and Computer Services, 294A Caledonian Road, London N1 1BA. Tel: 01-607 0157

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Strensall, York, YO3 5WX. Tel:  
York 490683  
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## Spectrums for sale

**48K SPECTRUM**, printer, Kempston joystick and Interface 8, original games inc Zeus Assembler and Guides £185.00. Tel. Saundersfoot 812187.  
**SPECTRUM SOFTWARE** — originals Kong (Ocean), £2.95, flight simulation £3.50, soliki £2.50, Imogate £1.95, Prest £2.95, Speakeasy £1.95. The Hobbit £4.95, games 2 (Sintia) £1.00. Tel. Falkirk 0324-20275.

**SPECTRUM 48K** with tape recorder, bargain at £80 with ten month guarantee. Phone Nick on Sheffield (0742) 227650.

**48K SPECTRUM with Printer & s/w** Tel: 2128 after 5pm.

**48K SPECTRUM, Printer & paper** £400 of s/w £250.00. Could sell separately. Tel. White Abbey 60032.  
**2x 80 with 8K rom, manual 2 books & cassette** £190.00. Tel. Huddersfield-on-Sea 2128.

**S/W FOR SALE** — for Spectrum all various inc: Hobbit, Death Chase, from £300. Tel: 0703 767580.

**SPECTRUM 48K** cassette recorder, joystick, printer 100 & games Pascal, Forti and more Colour T.V. cassette cabinet mugs etc £300.00. Tel: 0268555372.

**SPECTRUM games** — excellent sale — Valhalla £9.00. Halls of things £4.00. Zip zap £3.00. Jetpac £3.00. Post £3.00. Phone Mayfield 972048 (Robert).

**ZX Spectrum issue 2**, 16K plus micro speech, 30 mags, books and software, all in good condition. Will accept £110 or less. Tel: 01 805 7197.

**SPECTRUM 48K** Printer, carry case etc., very quick sale wanted at £80. Tel: Nottingham (0602) 324166 (ask for Julian).

**48K SPECTRUM** 9 months guarantee plus ZX Printer 5 mags and protek interface and quickshot plus many games excellent cond., £250. Tel: 01115 378034 after 5pm.

**SPECTRUM GAMES** for sale, all originate only a month old. Bear Rover, Mr Wimpy Mazies, H.O.T.T. £3.95 each. Cyber Rats, £2.95. Send Monex Cheque to P. Roberts, lower Laidcot Shobdon.

**SPECTRUM PROGRAMMABLE** Cambridge Joystick and interface, brand

new, unused, £24.00. Was duplicate present. Works with any games. Two independent fire buttons. Also for sale, original software half price. Phone 0481-23390 evenings.  
**ORIGINAL SPECTRUM** games: Manic Miner, Chickie, Snooker, Jetpac, Zzcom, Alchemist, £350. River Rescue, Train Game, Freez Beaz, £300. All good condition. Tel: 0524 762 217 evenings. 1 pay postage.

## Ataris for sale

**ATARI VCS** for sale, six games, Combat, Air Sea Battle, Asteroids, Missile Command, Night Driver, Dodge 'Em. If interested ring 853 4281 after 4pm Mon to Sat. £50.00. 853-4281.

**ATARI 400** 16K with cassette recorder, joysticks, manuals, Basic, Star Raiders, Defence, Missile Command, Space Invaders, Diamonds. Swap for CBM 64 or sell for £200. Tel: 01-609 1962 after 6pm.

**Bold Type ATARI** s/w inc: Pacman, Centipede, Star Raiders. Cartridges £12 each. Scott Adams Adventures 24K memory, Accout, Voodoo Castle, and Mission Impossible £10 each. Tel: 01-524 6035.

**ATARI 400** + tape recorder + joystick inc. Over 150 programs £150. Or swap for Color Genie. Tel: Wakefield 822543.

**ATARI 600K** £200 of s/w, cassette deck, joystick £250 or swap for CBM 64, or BBC model B. Tel: Nottingham (0602) 322741.

**ACORN SOFT GAMES** for sale. All originals. Rocket Raid, Starship Command, Meteors, Spins Adventure, Super Invaders £5.60 each. Planetoid £4.50. Will also consider swapping for other original BBC games. (0259) 60529.

**BBC MODEL A 32K** plus v.s. All leads and manuals included. Much software. Condition as new. £275.00. Tel: Battersea 74428.

## Tandys for sale

**48K AQUARIUS** for £32. Tel: 0555 715402.

**TANDY CGP-115** Printer. Excellent condition, complete with two spare rolls of paper and new pens. Ideal for Dragon, Tandy, etc. £90. Tel: (0202) 692533 after 6pm.

**TANDY Co-Co 16K** extended Basic cartridge and cassette software, joysticks, cassette recorder, books £130. Tel: Woodbury 68756.

**AQUARIUS** computer, data recorder, and one game Astrosmash. Brand new hardly used £78.00.00. with operating instruction. Tel: 01-800 6227.

**Video Genie 32K** Accubac floppy tape system. Printer interface. Light pen, various books and software £200. 0923-27093.

## ZX81s for sale

**ZX81 16K RAM** £20 worth of games. Books, v.c. £45.00, or swap for VIC-20. Ring Pete on 524-3032.

**16K RAM** pack for ZX81, only £8.50. Contact A. Berry, 82 Chester Road North. Sutton Coldfield. B73 6SL.

**ZX81 16K**, 4 computer tapes, £35. Tel: 0403 50170.

## Commodores for sale

**VIC 20** game cartridges. Jupiter Lander, Menagerie, Mole Attack, Omega Race. Only 2 months old. Some never opened. £5.00 each. Also Wacky Wallers and Wizard and Princess. £3.50 each. Tamworth 50275.

**VIC 20 + C2N** Cassette unit — many mags. £80. Tel: Huddersfield (0484) 852 853 after 6pm.

**COMMODORE CASSETTE** unit inter-

face. Save. and Load programs onto any cheap recorder with this interface. Reliable — just plugs in. 3 months old. Suitable: Pet. Vic. CBM 64. Accept £12.50.00. (0244) 675717.

**COMMODORE VIC 20** + cassettes unit. Games, Blank tapes, ref books 3 weeks old. 1 year guarantee, boxed v.g.c. £150. Tel: Princes Risborough 6922.

**SIMONS BASIC** cartridge for CBM 64 £35.00. Tel: Bracknell 489173 (eves).  
**COMMODORE BARGAINS!** For Vic 20 Voodoo Castle, Adventure cartridge only £7. Avenger cartridge (fully operational and totally reliable but slightly damaged) £4. Phone now! 0558 622509.

**C54 SOFTWARE** Simons Basic, unopened £40. CBM Educational software £5 each. CBM Assembler unit £20. Tape copier £30. Computer reset £3.50. Dr Watsons Assembler tutor £9. Tel: 0222 855067.

**COMMODORE 64** + C2N, books, manual, programmer's reference guide, tapes, (including Assembler + 3 Damsa-soft games), Quickshot Joystick, dust cover. Original boxes. £295 or best offer. Buyer collects. Phone 01-951 6032 anytime.

**VIC 20, C2N, 16K, Super Expander 4** slot switchable Motherboard and 2 cartridges for sale. Includes lots of software and introduction to Basic with programmers reference guide, and magazines. Only £210. Buyer collects.

**VIC 20** cassette deck, 16K super expander, speech synthesiser, 6 games cartridges, 19 games. Loads of books, as new. All in boxes. Worth £500.00. Sell for £250.00. Tel: Southend 68904 after 6pm.

**VIC 20** software, Mole Attack, Omega Race, Avenger, Road Race, Jupiter Lander, Voodoo Castle for £5 each. Also cassettes: Matrix, Laserzone, Gnunderen etc. For £4.45. Phone 073 864 274.

**CBM PET BASIC** N 32K Ram cassette drive and sound generator unit. Professional keyboard and lots of games and utilities and cassettes and books. Reasonable offers. Tel: 01-803 4733.

**30 GAMES FOR CBM 64**, £5.00.00. Tel: 01-948 3916.

**VIC 20 BOXED** plus 16K Ram, cassette deck. Adventure cartridge. Vic Revealed. Beginners Guide to Basic and various tapes £150.00. Tel: Harlow 0279 416138.

**CBM 64 S/W** Inticon Adventures, Deadie, Zork I and Zork II also Alan Defender, Denkey Kong and Robotron 9. Each Tel: 0274 672327.

**VIC 20** £130. New selling £95. Tel: 01-598 2869 after 7pm. No offers.

**VIC 20** and Tape recorder and Super Expander 16K into to Basic 5 books, 75 cartridges, and amazing £300 of s/w. Worth £650. Accept £250. Tel: 01-859 3702 evenings. Paul.

**CBM 64 SOFTWARE** for sale or swap, incl Pilot (Flight Simulator), Grand Master Chess, Wander Adventure game, Hoyer Bovver, also Printer wanted. Tel: Horsham (0403) 57511.

**CBM 64** s/w cartridges, Defender £15, Rat Race £7, Soccer £9, tapes, Forbidden Forest £7, Hobbit £9 and many more. Tel: 0622 61917.

**FOR COMMODORE 64**, Shinwa CP80 printer with built-in interface, one month old. Tractor and friction load. Excellent quality. £255 complete. Telephone 061 941 3102. Medford.

**VIC 20, 16K and Super Expander** and motherboard, joystick, cassette unit. Over ten cartridges and 20 cassettes. Books and many magazines, all VGC and still guaranteed. Cost £300 +, want £100 or £120 inc. b/w tv. Phone 01-444 9132 (Rick).

## For sale

**ZX PRINTER** paper for sale. £8 gets you five rolls, post paid. Mr C Ritchie, 40 Keldaville Bldgs, Keldaville Road, Glasgow. Tel: 041-357 2894.

**STONKERS**, Mr Wimpy, Jumbly, Death Chase, Pinball Wizard, Thrust Speed Dual, Scuba Dive, Traxx, Push Off, etc. for sale. Phone 061 851 3551. Tony PET 4032. Cassette, Paper Tiger Graphics printer, also Corfax hardware, software package allows use as asynchronous mainframe terminal. Lots of software, business, compilers, utilities, assembler, educational, games £500 0634-53556.

**CHATTERBOX** speech synthesiser £20. No cheques please. Stefan, Flat 2, 1 Station Road, Lytham, Lancs FY8 5DH. First to pay secures. Suitable for Spectrum 16K/48K.

**ORIC ATMOS** 1 mth old, professional keyboard + £100 of software + £30 cassette unit, spare cassette load. Software includes Hobbit Redundancy Forces. Sale £250. Will separate. Apply Dr Lowe, 36 Mountfields, Pilsea, Basildon Essex.

**T199 4A** home computer, perfect condition 4 months old, plus Parsec game, cartridge, joysticks, beginner's Basic tutor, cassette load, and 3 good books, £80.00. Tel: Darnes 741-7824.

**ORIC 148K** complete with books + s/w, 8 months guarantee £80.00. Manchester 061 747 9367.

**INTELLIVISION** gumos cartridge, various titles from £8-£16.00 each. Want cartridge for Colecovision System. Tel: 01-764 4078.

**ORIC BBC** s/w inc: Snooker, Star Ship Command, Planetoid, Snowball, Hobbit, Monster + 8 others. Total cost approx £160. Sell for £80. Tel: Cambridge 062 439.

**CURRAH** speech unit for any Spectrum, swap for I/O ports or 3rd sound unit or £20 (still under warranty). Tel: (0905) 564719.

**MATTEL AQUARIUS** 16K Ram pack game cartridge colour and sound. Good condition, still boxed cost £120. Swap for 48K Spectrum or 48K Oric or sell for £75. Call after 1pm. Newbury (0635) 34520.

**MICROLEIN 80** Dot Matrix Printer with BBC printer cable. Four months old. Hardly used. Worth £270. Sell for £130. Tel: 0863 42052.

**QUICKSHOT JOYSTICK** for sale. As new four months old, perfect working order, uses any Atari type socket, £8. Cheques P.O.s to: R Kidd, 20 Buckfast Close Ipswich, Suffolk.

**LYNX 48K**, boxed with manuals, leads, printer interface + £35 s/w £100.00. Tel: Coventry (0203) 484 732.

**48K LYNX**, leads, manuals, news letters, s/w £110. Duplicate Ace £30. 2 books for Oric £5.00. Spectrum s/w, games £10. Emigration forces sale. Tel: 0385 731998.

**MODERN** — a Cam Boxbox. Perfect virtually never used £55. Tel: 01-794 1899.

**TRS 80** model I with Interface 48K with Acculab Strigly floppy or separate £400. Tel: 0538 383547 (day) 0538 385538 (ends).

**NEWBRAIN AD 32K** — £100.00. TRS 80 Green screen monitor £55.00. Tel: 01-521 0672.

**ORIC-1** 48K/Oric Atmos software. Brand new games Four Illies, Ghost, Green Toad, Probe-3, Frigate. Never used. Have no Oric! Will swap for Spectrum software or sell £17. 01-385 3545.

**48K UPGRADE KIT** for sale. Unused, issue 2 only. £15. Phone: Glasgow, evenings (041) 772-3157. Ask for Peter.



## WILD CARDS

Given that its main market has been as a business machine there are fewer filing systems available for the BBC than you'd expect. Of those that are around there are few with anything approaching the sophistication expected from conventional business systems.

*Profile* from Haiku Soft is one filing system which provides many advanced features. In particular, it allows for fields — the various different elements like name, address, telephone number, etc. — to be of any length. It does not require you to set them up before you start entering data to a regular maximum length — useful because of the often significant saving in memory and the flexibility.

The system also has 'wild cards', where the computer can search for a record even if you are uncertain of an exact spelling or only remember part of a name.

The version of the program supplied on tape will also function on disc and the manual supplied is one of the best I have seen.

**Program** *Profile*  
**Price** £19.95  
**Micro** BBC  
**Supplier** Haiku Software  
Technology  
Dragon Gate,  
77 St John's Street  
Hayle  
Cornwall

## BIT OF BOVVER

I have spoken before of the mysterious Jungian collective consciousness that makes software companies all bring out the same game at the same time.

This phase of the moon is bringing forth versions of that strange arcade game where you must dash across a grid (you being a boot) and stomp on a bomb before it does what all bombs almost inevitably do ie, explode.

As you tread on each section of grid it disappears — so some thought must be given to the

best routes to each bomb. There are other features, like skulls and boomer boots to make life even more difficult.

*Grid Bomb* is the latest version of this game and is for the Oric. It is true to the original and makes good use of the Oric's sound facilities — there are eight screens of action and the whole thing is in machine code. An Atmos version can be confidently expected.

**Program** *Grid Bomb*  
**Price** £5.95  
**Micro** Oric  
**Supplier** Touchstone  
61 Highfield Road  
Saxilby  
Lincoln

## CASH FLOW

*Moneybox* is a personal finances database program for the Dragon 32. Like most home account type programs it allows a record to be kept of basic financial information — bills, credits, etc.

Unlike other systems, records can be analysed in a great many different ways and past information can be used to produce projections into the future.

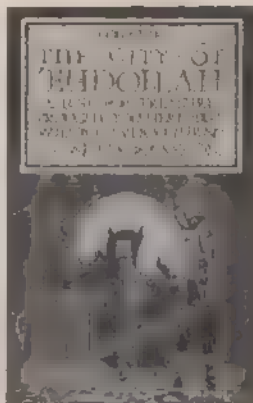
The program is well designed with plenty of prompts and error checking. There are fairly substantial instructions on the cassette insert.

**Program** *Moneybox*  
**Price** £9.99  
**Micro** Dragon 32  
**Supplier** Harris Software  
49 Alexandra Road  
Hounslow  
Middlesex  
TW3 4HP

## INGENIOUS

Goldstar is a new software house who clearly do not believe in doing things by halves — all its programs come beautifully packaged in sturdy boxes rather like those for Betamax Video cassettes.

The proof is in the pudding and one of the most interesting of its first releases is an adventure game for the Spectrum called *The City of Ehdollah* (you can tell we're among



computing types here). It is text only and retails for a princely £9.95 — for that money it's going to have to be good.

Is it? Well, it does not understand complicated sentences and an infuriating number of sensible guesses are met with unhelpful 'I don't know how to...' type answers.

On the plus side the first few clues I solved proved to have very ingenious but fair solutions and the place descrip-

tions created a convincing backdrop to the fantasy. There is also a facility for real time battles where factors like strength and stamina (largely) determine your success in the various fights. I suspect this is one for the purists who enjoy the pure puzzle solving without fancy trappings.

**Program** *The City of Ehdollah*  
**Price** £9.95  
**Micro** Spectrum  
**Supplier** Goldstar  
1-2 Henrietta Street  
London  
WC2E 8PS

## WITCHCRAFT

*Spellbound* is one of Beyond Software's latest releases and since it's the one you're likely to hear least of in the coming weeks I thought it worth a mention here.

It's a version of *Q Bert*, (like so many other games released for the Spectrum recently) but instead of a little man with a big nose it has

Pick of the week

## CHECK AND MATE

CDS Micro Systems

**COLOSSUS CHESS 2.0**

*Colossus Chess 2.0* currently holds the reputation as the best chess playing program on any home micro — the manual contains a long list of the other chess programs it has thrashed (*White Knight Mk II* lost 11 to 5).

More than that (for me anyway) it tells you what it is thinking, thus educating you into chess tactics as it goes along. The screen display includes not only the chess board but also chess clocks which is a nice feature I've not seen on other chess programs.

The program contains all the other features of conventional chess programs such as, make best move, change sides, position analysis. The play can take place in any of six modes which differ in their characteristics — some are good for chess problem solving, others for simple games etc.

If you have a Commodore 64 this would seem to be the Chess program to get. The price is reasonable too.

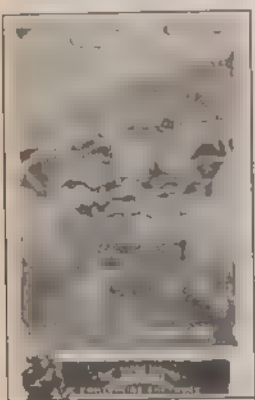
**Program** *Colossus Chess 2.0*  
**Price** £9.95  
**Micro** Commodore 64  
**Supplier** CDS Microsystems  
10 Westfield Close  
Tickhill  
Doncaster  
DN11 9LA



## New Releases

frogs jumping up and down steps trying to escape from the various unnatural and slimy products of a witch's cauldron.

Graphically the game is superb, with large multicoloured graphics — I particularly like the witch whose withered arm zaps additional baddies into existence from time to time.



A couple of small points — the game is not, for some reason, very responsive to joysticks and the movement is a bit jumpy. On the other hand the sound effects are marvellous.

**Program** Spellbound  
**Price** £5.95  
**Micro** Spectrum  
**Supplier** Beyond  
Competition  
House  
Farndon Road  
Market  
Harborough  
Leicestershire  
LE16 9NR

### ASTRO QUEST

Zodiac is the latest Commodore 64 release from Anirog and it is broadly an adventure game in the sense that Ultimate's *Atic Atac* is an adventure game i.e. an arcade game in which you have to complete a task more like that of an adventure i.e. find the twelve symbols of the zodiac scattered around a giant maze.

This involves travelling from room to room availing the various different kinds of creature all of whom will kill you without so much as a second glance. Some of the rooms you come across contain the mysterious symbols.

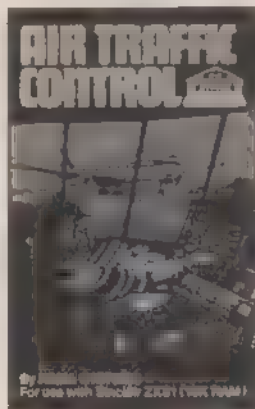
If you collect all twelve symbols then stage two begins. You are transported with the symbols to the Time vaults. Here you meet JEMON (the capital letters mean he is very dangerous indeed) whom you must avoid whilst placing each symbol in the Central Chamber.

**Program** Zodiac  
**Price** £7.95  
**Micro** Commodore 64  
**Supplier** Anirog  
29 West Hill  
Dartford  
Kent

### JUGGLING

*Air Traffic Control* is a program for the ZX81 which puts you in charge of up to 15 different planes all flying in the same area of sky.

Your task, like juggling with several balls at the same time,



to make sure all the aeroplanes don't crash by keeping them on separate paths from one another.

In the unlikely event that this all sounds easy, the whole matter is complicated by all the planes flying at different rates and by the extra requirement that you send them safely off from your area in the right direction for their destinations.

**Program** Air Traffic Control  
**Price** £4.95  
**Micro** ZX81  
**Supplier** Hama Software  
Sackville Place  
44-48 Magdalen  
Street  
Norwich

### MICRO MUSIC

Now you can use your Spectrum to learn guitar (since playing music is often a lot more satisfying than playing computer games it could put itself out of a job) with *Guitar Tutor 1* from Harlequin software.

The program is divided into three parts, an introduction and tuning guide, a display of the most common chords, and four tunes for you to play and impress your friends.

Obviously the big problem with the Spectrum and to a lesser extent the other micros is that you cannot use it to play chords. That said though, complete beginners could get something from this program.

**Program** Guitar Tutor 1  
**Price** £4.95  
**Micro** Spectrum  
**Supplier** Harlequin  
Software  
43 Osprey Park  
Thornbury  
Bristol BS12 1LY

### PARASITES

*Digger* is a sort of Dig Dug for the BBC B. Your carefully nurtured allotment is attacked by waves of footas and pubars, particularly nasty forms of parasite.

You can defeat them by pumping them up — an unpleasant form of revenge in which they explode like balloons, or you can drop rocks on them by careful tunnelling.



Not that you have things your own way all the time, on some occasions the baddies turn into fire breathing ghosts with a sideline in gamma rays.

The whole game is machine coded with nicely animated characters and good sound effects.

**Program** Digger  
**Price** £6.90  
**Micro** BBC B  
**Supplier** Visions  
1 Felgate Mews  
Sudland Street  
London W6 9JT

### SODA SQUIRTS

*The Pyramid* from Fantasy Software was a game noted not only for its quality but also its quantity — 120 different rooms containing 120 different aliens.

The game is now available on the Commodore 64 and all the features of the Spectrum original have been retained including such masterly inventions as the dreaded squirting soda syphons (the programmers obviously go to the same sort of parties as I do) and the extra-terrestrial tweezers.

The order of alien encounter depends on how you leave each previous room i.e. N.S.E. W. All the aliens animate appropriately e.g. tweezers tweeze, syphons squirt, etc. Apart from that it's pretty much dodging and destroying all the way. One extra touch — it sets up a title page whilst loading, which itself is speeded up considerably — features all 64 games should have as the inscrutable blue screen gets pretty irritating.

**Program** The Pyramid  
**Price** £6.50  
**Micro** Commodore 64  
**Supplier** Fantasy Software  
Fauconberg Lodge  
27A St Georges  
Road  
Cheltenham  
Glos GL50 3DT

New Releases is designed to let people know what software is coming on to the market. If you have a new game or utility which you are about to release send a copy and accompanying details to: New Releases, Popular Computing Weekly, 12-13 Little Newport Street, WC2R 3LD.

- BBC\***
- (1) Mr Wimpy (Ocean)
  - (2) Fortress (Pace)
  - (3) Darned Dennis (Visions)
  - (4) Chuckle Egg (J&P)
  - (5) 3D Space Ranger (Microbyte)
  - (6) Twin Kingdom Valley (Bug Byte)
  - (7) Snooker (Visions)
  - (8) Legion (Software Projects)
  - (9) Balloon Sally (Paton)
  - (10) Cosmic Kid (Superior)
- \*All Model B
- (Figures compiled by Micro Management, Ipswich 0473 59181)

- Atari**
- (1) Warlock (Cassio)
  - (2) Rally Speedway (Adventure International)\*
  - (3) Silky (Cosmi)
  - (4) Caverns of Karla (Cosmi)
  - (5) Fire Fleet (English)
  - (6) Voodoo Castle (Adventure International)
  - (7) Preppie (Adventure International)
  - (8) Enchanter (Inlocom)
  - (9) Sega & The Count (Adventure International)
  - (10) Plan! Fall (Inlocom)
- \*Cassio 132K disc 132 cassette
- (Figures compiled by Callisto Computers, Birmingham 021 532 6456)

- Spectrum\***
- (1) Ato Atac (Ultimate)
  - (2) Jet Set Willy (Software Projects)
  - (3) Chiquered Flag (Paton)
  - (4) Soup Dive (Durell)
  - (5) Hunchback (Ocean)
  - (6) Flight Simulation (Paton)
  - (7) Frog (Ocean)
  - (8) Lunar Jellman (Ultimate)
  - (9) Cyrus is Chess (Intelligent)
  - (10) Anti Attack (Quickalive)
- \*All 48K except where noted. †16K
- (Figures compiled by WH Smith and Son, London)

- Books**
- (1) Disc Systems for the BBC Micro, Sinclair (Grainade)
  - (2) Mastering the Commodore 64, Jones and Carpenter (Horwood)
  - (3) Interfacing Projects for the BBC Micro, Smith (Addison Wesley)
  - (4) A Hardware Guide for the BBC Micro, Derrick (Wiley)
  - (5) Introducing Logo, Allen (Grainade)
  - (6) BBC Micro Disc Companion, Latham (Practice-Hall)
  - (7) Advanced Graphics with the BBC Microcomputer, Angell and Jones (Macmillan)
  - (8) 68000 Assembly Language Programming, Kane and Leverthal (Osborne)
  - (9) MS-DOS Users Guide, De Voney (Sims)
  - (10) Complete Forth, Winfield (Sims)
- (Figures compiled by Watford Technical Books, Watford 0923 23324 Prestel 28644)
- (Last week's position in brackets)

- Commodore 64**
- (1) Manic Miner (Software Projects)
  - (2) Quick Thinking (Mimosa)
  - (3) Caesar the Cat (Mimosa)
  - (4) Hunchback (Ocean)
  - (5) Revenge of the Mutant Camels (Liamson)
  - (6) Mr Wimpy (Ocean)
  - (7) Space Pilot (Anlog)
  - (8) Ugh (Softalk)
  - (9) International Football (Commodore)
  - (10) Scobaboo (The First) (Quickalive)
- (Figures compiled by Boots/Websters)

- Vic 20**
- (1) Snooker (Visions)
  - (2) Flight 015 (Ferraci Davenport)
  - (3) Wizard and the Princess (Melbourne House)
  - (4) Metagaleactic Llamas Battle at the Edge (Liamson)
  - (5) Crazy Kong (Interceptor)
  - (6) Jet Pac (Ultimate)
  - (7) Ennet Attack (Commodore)
  - (8) Grid Runner (Liamson)
  - (9) Carrier Attack (Rabbit)
  - (10) Demobuster (Rabbit)
- ZX81\***
- (1) Mothership (Softaynch)
  - (2) Fantasy Games (Paton)
  - (3) Space Raiders (Paton)
  - (4) Asteroids (Quickalive)
  - (5) Football Manager (Additive Games)
  - (6) Flight Simulation (Paton)
  - (7) Scramble (Quickalive)
  - (8) Invaders (Quickalive)
  - (9) Defenders (Quickalive)
  - (10) Vu-ile (Sinclair)
- (Two titles tied for 10th position)
- \*All 128K

- Dragon**
- (1) Dragon Chess (Dess)
  - (2) Ugh (Softalk)
  - (3) Hungry Horace (Melbourne House)
  - (4) King of the Egg (J&P)
  - (5) King of the Egg (J&P)
  - (6) Pedro (Imagine)
  - (7) Up Periscopes (Beyond)
  - (8) Space Shuttle Simulator (Microdeal)
  - (9) Devil Assault (Microdeal)
  - (10) Culbert in the Mine (Grainade)

## SOUPED-UP

## XY PLOTTER

Machine Code for the Atmos and Oric 1 is a timely book for those who have recently bought the new souped-up machine.

Of introductions to machine code there is little to say — loops, hex, instruction codes, and the rest are introduced and explained.

The book makes much use of flow charts and examples (which look suspiciously as though they were type set — very worrying from a reliability point of view). The writing from Bruce Smith is clear and, although I always think machine code is a lot more difficult than book blurb would have you believe, quite easy to understand.

**Book** Machine Code for the Atmos and Oric-1  
**Price** £6.95

**Micro** Oric 1/Atmos  
**Supplier** Shiva Publishing  
4 Church Lane,  
Nantwich,  
Cheshire CW5 5RQ

Interfacing Projects for the Micro is one of the most interesting computer books I've seen. As the title suggests it contains various ideas to connect your micro to the outside world. These include a light pen, a rain detector and more impressively, an Eprom programmer and an XY plotter.

The real achievement of the book is it's very clear descriptions of what to buy and how to connect it all together, with a photo of what the device should look like. Even a complete electrical illiterate should find nothing daunting here.

**Book** Interfacing Projects for the BBC Micro  
**Price** £6.95  
**Micro** BBC  
**Supplier** Addison-Wesley  
53 Bedford Square,  
London WC1

# This Week

Program	Type	Micro	Price	Supplier
Gemsetape	Arc	Aquarius	£5.95	Fewkes
Smack	Arc	Atari	£6.95	Future Design
3D Tankzone	Arc	BBC	£6.95	Dynabyte
Advanced Basic	Ed	BBC	£10.50	Honeyfold
Assembled Language	Ed	BBC	£12.50	Honeyfold
B Base	Ut	BBC	£25.00	Cleane
The Alien Planet	Ad	BBC	£9.95	Honeyfold
Acos+	Ut	Commodore 64	£8.95	Melbourne House
Assembly Language	Ed	Commodore 64	£12.50	Honeyfold
Basic Programming	Ed	Commodore 64	£10.50	Honeyfold
Cosmic Cruiser	Arc	Commodore 64	£5.50	Imagine
Culbert goes Walkabout	Arc	Commodore 64	£8.00	Microdeal
Culbert in Space	Arc	Commodore 64	£8.00	Microdeal
Culbert in the Jungle	Arc	Commodore 64	£8.00	Microdeal
Death Star	Arc	Commodore 64	£5.99	Rabbit
Maziacs	Arc	Commodore 64	£5.95	DK Tronics
The Alien Planet	Ad	Commodore 64	£9.95	Honeyfold
Ace High (MK 2)	Arc	Dragon	£5.95	Tudor
Crazy Plumber	Arc	Dragon	£5.95	Wizard
Decathlon	S	Dragon	£5.95	Wizard
Dodo	Arc	Dragon	£5.95	Baby
Elmest	Ut	Dragon	£19.95	Microdeal
Juniper	Ut	Dragon	£9.99	Juniper
Mission XX1	Arc	Dragon	£5.95	J Morrison
Planet Conquest	Arc	Dragon	£5.95	Baby
Starword	S	Dragon	£5.95	Wizard
Strategy	S	Dragon	£9.45	Wizard
The Chocolate Factory	S	Dragon	£8.95	Minits
Sunken City	Ad	Dragon 32	£7.95	Silk

Assembly Language	Ed	Electron	£12.50	Honeyfold
Bridge Player II	S	Spectrum	£8.95	GP Software
Basic Programming	Ed	Spectrum	£10.50	Honeyfold
Count with Oliver	Ed	Spectrum	£7.95	Mimosa
Empires	Ed	Spectrum	£19.95	Imperial
Engine Collectors	Ut	Spectrum	£3.45	Placet
Forth	Ut	Spectrum	£15.00	Sigma
Halley's Comet	S	Spectrum	£7.45	Eclipse
Look Sharp	Ed	Spectrum	£7.95	Mimosa
Matrix	Arc	Spectrum	£8.95	Salamander
Messier Lite	S	Spectrum	£8.45	Eclipse
Olympics 84	Ut	Spectrum	£14.95	Storm
Pal-Spy	Ad	Spectrum	£7.95	Postern
Alpha Blaster	Arc	Vic 20	£7.95	Sumlock
Assembly Language	Ed	Vic 20	£12.50	Honeyfold
The Alien Planet	Ad	Vic 20	£12.50	Honeyfold
Climber	Arc	ZX81	£4.45	Microdeal
The Temple	Ad	ZX81	£2.85	J Paton

Key: Ad — adventure/Arc — arcade/Ed — education/  
S — strategy-simulation/Ut — utility

This Week is a new section that covers all the new software coming on to the home micro market each week. All suppliers should send details of their new programs to: This Week, Popular Computing Weekly, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.





## The outer limits

I dropped out of hyperspace, my guts returning to their familiar positions — hyperspace always leaves me feeling nauseous. I flipped the toggle switch controlling the window shields, the mechanisms hissed within the skin of the ship and space flooded in through the giant window which covered the starboard wall of the control cabin.

At the sight of this deep blackness at the edge of the galaxy vertigo gripped me in its crazy fingers for a moment and my throat crawled like the fur on the back of a cat. I shook my head and swung back round to examine the readout screens in front of me.

"Bleak out there," Neep said inside my ear. I looked over to the wall bracket where he had attached himself for the duration of the voyage. Neep, a small Pseudo Conscious Intelligent Construct and my companion for the past year, communicated with me by means of a receiver/speaker implanted in my ear and a transmitter/microphone implanted in my throat.

"Yes, it scares me this far out, yet I find it exhilarating," I subvocalised. The cabin remained quiet. "Are you monitoring the displays over here?"

"Yes, looks as though that cry for help was no hoax," Neep whispered in my ear. I turned to look out of the wall window and space silently exploded, blinding me for a moment.

"What the..." I swore loudly. Then my training asserted itself and I started to subvocalise to Neep, "Find out what that was; take control of ship systems; move us out of here; evasive manoeuvres; if necessary, vector us through the nearest gravity well into H-Space." As I spoke, the first reports appeared inside my ear.

"Warning/attack shot, vessels beyond the Forts of Falcon; refer to navcom screen; Missile type unknown; vessels unknown. Evasive man-

oeuvring complete. Ship intact. Scans indicate missile pattern converging. Strap down Aereus, this is going to be rough. Main Sub Light Drive engaging. Ignition. Gravity Inertia Compensation .7 effective and falling." I ripped the webbed straps from their hooks and pulled them tight over my body as the ship, a Calurian Cannon ship named Hawk, plummeted sideways through space. As the Gravity Compensation began to fail, I felt myself falling towards the wall window.

"Neep, your control," I gasped as madness forced my consciousness away from my brain and down my spine.

Light shimmered down a long tunnel peopled with chattering harpies as I clawed my way back to consciousness. "Aereus, are you back?"

"Neep, How long?"

"Three minutes, that was a bad one."

"Report?" My head felt like the inside of an incinerator.

"I've carried out evasive action, we are at a safe distance for the moment. You really must get something done about that agoraphobia. I've put the Hawk through some tough manoeuvres, the structural integrity is down to .66, and we have no H-Space facilities, we'd break up on entry. The alien fleet..."

"The what?" I asked — this was getting a little too hairy.

"Alien fleet. Forty aggressive ships of unknown origin and capabilities beyond the Forts of Falcon. The Forts will not be functioning again as defence and refuelling stations — they have suffered severe damage. There may be no one left alive on them. Look at the Shipcom screen for a rerun of some pictures I took while we moved."

I looked down at the screen before me and my hands went cold. Sweat broke out on my forehead, dripping into my eyes. The scene was of the nearest fort, a huge grey brown solid H shaped structure, a shadow between me and a mean scattering of stars. There were gaping holes in it, as though some improbable monster had taken bites out of it, and shards of metal drifted around the Fort rotating slowly.

The camera zoomed in on the docking bay; the doors were open and I could see some debris floating around them. Closer now I could see bodies adrift in the bay, the inner hatchways were gaping wide, a little frozen air was smeared on the doors, a helmeted figure crossed the screen, the visor red, a rip in the side of the suit trailed a string of frozen meat.

"Neep, I've seen enough, the distress call that brought us here, is it still sounding?"

Mark Eyles

To be continued next week

## Throw the dice

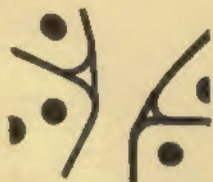
### Puzzle No 104

It was a rainy day and time to amuse ourselves with a set of dice.

"Pick two numbers between 2 and 252 — that's the limit of the game," they said.

"Sixty-seven and one hundred and ninety-nine," I said.

"Now pick up and shake the four dice, and throw two of them on the table," they continued. I did as they requested.



"Now, multiply the two numbers together, throw the third die and add this number thrown." Having done this, they instructed me to throw the fourth die, and finally multiply by this number.

To win the game, this final total should be equal to one of the numbers chosen at the outset.

It was only later that I realised that perhaps I had made the wrong choice of numbers. What numbers should I have picked?

### Solution to Puzzle No 99

The problem can be solved by breaking down each even number (2 to 100) into component primes, or, as here, by summing together every odd prime with every higher odd prime, and incrementing an array, by one, for every total under 100.

The odd primes under 100 are held in a second array, P(25). Lines 30 to 54 put the first 25 odd primes into P(1) to P(25).

```
10 DIM A (50) 20 DIM P(25) 30 LET P(1) = 1 31 LET P(2) = 3 34 LET P(25) = 97 40 FOR N = 1 TO 24 70 FORM = N TO 25 80 LET S = P(N) + P(M) 90 IF S <= 100 THEN LET A(S/2) = A(S/2) + 1 100 IF S > 100 THEN GOTO 120 110 NEXT M 120 NEXT N 130 FOR N = 1 TO 50 140 PRINT N * 2, A(N) 150 NEXT N
```

This shows that there are ten possible different prime pairs which can be added to form the number 90.

### Winner of Puzzle No 99

The winner is: Iain David Sibley, Neuadd Philip-Evans, The Polytechnic of Wales, Pontyp-rid, Mid Glamorgan, who receives £10.

## The Hackers





# IMAGINE HAVING TO WORK LIKE THIS !



## PROBATION REPORT

It was only a few shorts ago that (from top to bottom) Mel Fagin, Andy Stagg Beetle, Christian-the-Walking-Pillowcase and Lady Clair Sinclive were asked to change their briefs ... "to produce the 69 most unacceptable programs ever."

The tension is beginning to show: their once smiling faces are still smiling, their eyes remain gently closed, Beer and Vodka are beginning to take their dole.

The atmosphere up 'Automata Towers' is a gas; will they suck seed? Can they maintain their insanity? Will they crack under the mental boredom?

Rumours abound that these programs are original, entertaining and value for money... no chance!

CAN YOU CONTAIN YOUR PATIENTS?

## CONSUMABLES TO DATE

Coffee consumed 0 cups (Coffilta repossessed the coffee machine)

Entire overdraft facility 1

Telephones tapped 353½ (our chief salesman didn't like one of his)

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AUTOMATA software available from larger BOOTS stores and selected retail outlets.

Contact us direct, or via the following wholesalers: MICRODEAL, FERRANTI & CRAIG, LEISURESOFT, WEBSTERS, SOLOMON & PERES, DRAKE DISTRIBUTION....seriously.

.... but seriously,

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